

## Electric Resistance Heating

Heating your home with electricity is very common for multi-family homes such as condos and apartments. Baseboard and wall units are the most common types of electric heating. In each of these styles, units heat rooms or zones of a home individually through units that have electric coils that heat the air.

Oftentimes, homes with zoned electric heating use portable space heaters to supplement the heating of the home. Space heaters can be just as expensive to run as baseboard or wall heaters, though many homes find that they are more effective at heating a room. Space heaters can be potential fire hazards, so make sure to only use them under supervision, especially when young children or pets are present, and should always be plugged directly into the wall.

	Baseboard/Wall Heaters	Portable Space Heaters
Typical yearly cost	\$1,700-1,900	Cost varies
Life expectancy	20+ years	Lifetime varies
Pros	Efficient at creating heat; inexpensive to install; no ductwork required	Can be good supplements to other types of heat
Cons	Expensive to run; easy to damage; often does not include forced air (slow to heat)	Expensive to run; potential fire hazard; not designed to heat large spaces

For electric resistance heating, a few small changes can help lower your heating costs:

- 1. Only heat the room or zone you are using*  
Instead of turning all of the heaters at once, use only the unit that is heating the room you are using. This will keep you warm, while also saving energy in the parts of the home that are unoccupied.
- 2. Close the door while you are heating a room*  
Wall and baseboard heaters are not designed to heat an entire living space all at once. By closing the door to the room you are heating, you will use less energy to get to the temperature you want and the room will stay warm for longer.
- 3. Clean your heating coils regularly*  
You might have noticed a burning smell while using your baseboard or wall heaters. This is due to a buildup of dust on the heating coils. By cleaning the coils, you will remove the dust (and bad smell!) and make your heater more efficient.