

advantages

by Alinta Energy

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Guide: What size heater do you need to buy?

When you're choosing a heating system, it's important to buy the right size heater for every room.

A heater that's too small won't provide enough heat to keep larger rooms comfortable, while one that's too large will waste energy and could be a hazard in smaller rooms. Here's how to buy a heater that's just right.

Things to consider

There's more to choosing a heater than just its size and power output. You'll need to account for a number of factors, including:

- the climate zone you live in
- how much sunlight the room receives
- whether surrounding rooms are already heated
- the height of the ceiling
- whether the walls and ceilings are insulated
- whether the floor is carpeted
- the size of the windows and how they're covered.

In a cold climate, you'll need 1kW of power to heat every 10 square metres. In a mild zone, this same 1kW can stretch to 16 square metres. Making sure your rooms are properly insulated will take the strain off your heater and your energy bills.

Heating for small rooms

If you only need to heat a small space (around 10 square metres), you should look for a small heater with a low power output.

A small 1.5kW gas heater with a good energy star rating should cost less than \$100 to run per year. You should avoid unflued heaters in small spaces, using a flued wall-mounted system instead.

Portable electric heaters are also suitable for heating small rooms, but they cost more to run, so they're best used for short-term and individual heating.

Heating for medium-sized rooms

For medium rooms (20 to 35 square metres), you'll need a more powerful heater that's capable of maintaining warm temperatures on colder days and nights.

A 3.5kW gas heater should be adequate for heating up the space. As long as your room's well insulated, an energy-efficient heater will cost around \$150 in bills per year.

Flued heaters are more expensive to install and cause some heat loss, but they'll keep your rooms well-ventilated if you're running the heater for long periods.

Reverse-cycle air conditioning is another option. Electric heaters aren't economical for medium-sized spaces.

Heating for large rooms

To heat a larger space (up to 60 square metres), reverse-cycle air conditioners can be the most efficient option, costing around \$250 in electricity bills per year. These systems are ideal for open-plan layouts, and they'll also keep your rooms cool in the warmer months.

If you prefer gas heating, an energy-efficient 7kW heater costs around \$350 to run each year. Electric heaters can approach \$1000.

To read more visit alintaenergy.com.au/heaters

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Our people

Every one of our employees plays an important part in our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional service to our customers.

Harry Street Regional Manager, Commercial & Industrial

Tell us about what you do?

I work in Alinta Energy's Commercial & Industrial department as the Regional Manager. My team manages large electricity and gas supply contracts for commercial and industrial customers in WA.

What do you enjoy most about your role and working for Alinta Energy?

What I most enjoy about my role is having the opportunity to meet businesses in WA from a variety of industries. The commercial and industrial team has a great customer focus and we are always looking for ways to help make customers' energy more affordable.

Tell us something you love about Perth and why?

Great restaurants, food, bars and weather – what's not to love! Perth has come a long way and will only get better! There's always an event happening around town or if you're a sports fan – there's the AFL and Basketball teams to support and much more!

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