

New Heating Standards could mean \$\$\$ BIG \$\$\$ to your Home

Effective May 1, 2013, the Department of Energy is implementing new heating efficiency standards for homes in Michigan. Currently, the minimum efficiency is 80%. Starting, May 2013, the minimum efficiency is going to be raised to 90%.

How does this affect you? Currently, most homeowners have older furnaces that no longer will be able to vent into a chimney or stack when replaced. With the new 90% ultra high efficiency standard, the furnaces will now have a pvc vent termination thru either the side wall or roof of your home. Many homes have restricted access due to a finished basement, or limited access to an exterior wall or ceiling; this could mean modifications to your home may be necessary to facilitate the new venting requirements.

Unfortunately, there is no recourse for a homeowner that may have few options for the new venting. Therefore, in some homes this may require the venting to be installed thru a room or closet where it can be seen in order to find an appropriate place to terminate the exhaust from the new furnace. Generally, most of the new 90% ultra high efficiency furnaces will vent with two 2" or 3" PVC pipes. One pipe is for combustion air for the sealed combustion chamber of the furnace. The second pipe if for the exhaust of the furnace. When these pipes are installed they are required to be installed vertically or horizontally with a slight pitch back to the furnace for condensation to drain.

After May I, 2013, the current 80% standard efficiency furnaces will no longer be allowed to be installed in Michigan ([Joint Stakeholders Comments on Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Central Air Conditioners, Heat Pumps](#)). Therefore, if you feel that your home poses a challenge for the new venting requirement, than this may be your last opportunity to install a standard 80% efficiency furnace. Although, our industry has been lobbying for a solution for those homeowners that this will be a hardship or a near impossibility, the Department of Energy steadfastly agrees that the efficiency savings will exceed the financial hardship that the new venting requirement may incur.

What can we do to solve this problem? If your furnace currently vents into an existing chimney or stack, then Special Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. is offering the opportunity for one of its Consultants to visit your home for a FREE consultation. During the consultation, the consultant will look at your current installation to evaluate your needs and make recommendation on how to deal with the new Department of Energy's efficiency standards. They can also show you how the new efficiency standard will help you save energy, money, and improve the comfort of your home. Special Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. can be reached at 586-405-5792 or at www.SpecialComfortHeating.com.

All state in green require 90% minimum efficiency starting May 1, 2013

AC-HP-Furnace Agreement Map

