

Comfort Matters

from

BRIDEAU
SMARTER HEATING & COOLING



winter 2025



personally speaking

what's your home comfort plan for 2025?



Mark Brideau Sr.

Dear Friends,

We're well into the heating season,

and spring is right around the corner. Now is a fantastic time to take stock of your home's heating and cooling equipment and decide if you should make some changes in the year ahead.

If your heating equipment has been struggling to keep you warm this season or your heating fuel consumption has been going up year after year, it could be time for a system upgrade. Our skilled technicians can assess your current equipment and recommend a replacement that works for your home and budget. They can also lower your fuel usage by 20% or more.

Hot days are closer than you might think as well. Winter and spring are ideal times

to replace your central A/C or ductless cooling equipment so that you're ready to beat the summer temperatures.

Not only can Brideau Energy install new, energy-efficient HVAC equipment for you and maintain it for years to come, but we'll also do everything we can to save you money at installation. You may qualify for rebates through Mass Save, federal tax credits and other financial incentives.

You can rest assured that whatever your home comfort needs are this year, Brideau Energy will be here to provide you with fuel, equipment services and total peace of mind.

Warmly,

Mark Brideau Sr.

make life easier with tank monitoring

How many pieces of equipment in your home depend on propane? Your heating, hot water, cooking appliances and dryer might all rely on a full propane tank. So running out of fuel can have a serious impact on your quality of life. Not only that, but our team needs to perform (and you need to pay for) a safety leak test whenever you have a full propane run-out.



But we have a solution that eliminates the guesswork of when you'll need more propane—particularly for households with less predictable usage patterns and folks who are often away from home.

A wireless propane tank monitor tracks your fuel level and transmits the data to you and us. You'll always know exactly how much propane you have via a free app—no more running outside to check a tank gauge. Brideau Energy will get an alert when it's time for a tank fill-up.

Contact us online or with the enclosed reply card to request a tank monitor today.



WIN a \$500 Visa gift card

Need extra cash for a spring getaway or home improvement this year? Just read this newsletter

and answer the questions on the enclosed reply card, or go to **BrideauEnergy.com/contest** to enter. All entries received by **3/31/2025** with the correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a **\$500** gift card. **Three winners will be selected!**

No purchase necessary. A purchase will not increase chance of winning. See contest website for details.

When the Comforts of Home Get Interrupted



Lights out

Nothing says home comfort interruption like a power outage. There go your lights, heat, television and so many more devices you depend on to bring convenience to your life.

If you have a standby whole-house generator, it may have been a while since you used it. Review the manufacturer's instructions on how to use it safely. And above all, make sure you have enough fuel to keep the generator running throughout the power outage.

After power is restored, follow these tips:

- **Throw away any food that was exposed** to temperatures above 40° for two hours or more. You should also dispose of any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture.
- **If the food in your freezer has stayed colder than 40°** and has ice crystals on it, it's safe to refreeze it.
- **Restock your home emergency supply kit** (new batteries, bottled water, canned food, etc.).
- **If you're concerned that your medications may have spoiled**, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice.
- **To prevent damage from power surges**, unplug all electrical appliances before resetting your circuit breaker.
- **Make sure there is no standing water in your basement.** If flood water has reached your heating system, get it checked before trying to restart it. Internal valves and controls are vulnerable to water damage and should be inspected.

Source: <https://www.cert-la.com/EmergPrepBooklet.pdf>

Many people define “ultimate luxury” as simply having the chance to relax and enjoy the comforts of home. But those comforts can be interrupted sometimes. Here are common home comfort problems – and ways to deal with them.



How to reboot your heating system

As you've learned from previous power outages, your heating system will not run without electricity. That's true not only for propane gas and heating oil systems but also for natural gas and, obviously, electric heating systems.

Once your power is back on, remember that your system typically won't start up on its own. It usually needs a little help from you. Look at it as a system “reboot.”

If you have a modern propane gas system, it should have a reset button. Push it **once only** and see if your system starts up. Pushing this button multiple times may cause damage to the control panel. If you have an older gas system, check to see if the pilot light has gone out.

If you have a heating oil system, follow the same advice as a gas system: push the reset button one time only. **Do not push it again.** Pushing this button multiple times can flood your system with oil, resulting in a costly repair.



Save time and expense

At some point, you may lose your heat, and it won't be caused by a widespread power outage. To save yourself the time and expense of an emergency service call, here are some things you can do yourself to get your heat back!

- **Check to see** if you have enough heating oil or propane in your storage tank.
- **Ensure the system's power switches** are in the “on” position.
- **See if a circuit breaker** has been tripped.
- **Make sure your thermostat is set** above room temperature and to “heat.” Check the batteries also.
- **If you still can't find the problem**, press your system's reset button once only.

What happened to the hot water?



If your old water heater is running out of hot water more frequently, it may have reached the end of its lifespan, which ranges from 7 to 13 years. Other trouble signs include higher water heating costs, leaks, rusty water and unusual noises.

Our water heater experts can help you choose a replacement model that's the right fit for your space, use and budget, then install it quickly and correctly so your comforts of home will always include plenty of hot water.

Both propane and oil-powered water heaters can save you a lot of money in operating costs versus less efficient electric units. They provide hot water faster and offer a range of different options to suit your home and comfort needs.

Running on empty



It can be a big pain in the neck when you run out of heating oil or propane,

but we know life gets in the way sometimes. It's easy to lose track of things.

If you want to remove “check the tank” from your to-do list this year, switch to our **free automatic delivery service**. The result: minimal chance of a run-out, no more calling for a delivery and no more checking your fuel levels on your own.

Instead, trust us to track how much fuel your home uses. When you start getting low, our driver will simply come to your home and fill up your tank based on the schedule we have built for you.

Tip

If you already get automatic delivery, don't forget to tell us if something has changed that affects how much propane or heating oil you use in your home. We'll adjust your delivery schedule accordingly.



ask the expert

Q: Should I replace my 30-year-old oil tank?

A: Heating oil tanks can last a long time, especially if they receive periodic inspections and general upkeep. Still, if your tank is more than 30 years old, you should probably consider a replacement. A sudden tank failure can lead to a disruptive, expensive fuel spill. Keep an eye out for pinhole leaks, condensation on the outside of the tank, rusting and bubbling paint. The Brideau Energy team can inspect your tank and advise if it's time to upgrade to a new, corrosion-resistant model.

Q: Should I consider converting my system to propane?

A: In some cases, switching from oil to propane heat can make a big difference. We often recommend converting to propane if customers have an older oil heating system with a fuel efficiency rating below 80%. You can slash your fuel costs and boost your home heating efficiency instantly. Plus, you can reclaim the space occupied by your bulky oil tank and lease an outdoor propane tank from us!

Go to BrideauEnergy.com or return the enclosed reply card to inquire about replacing your oil tank.



Paul Darcy
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PRESORTED
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get ahead of pollen season

Spring is on its way, and with it, you can expect pollen and many other allergens. Your HVAC system's air filter is the first line of defense against these and other airborne pollutants. You can help protect your indoor air quality (IAQ) by upgrading to a HEPA filter.

HEPA filter stands for "high-efficiency particulate air filter." Composed of thousands of thin borosilicate glass, plastic or fiberglass fibers, HEPA filters are much more effective than filters made from cotton, polyester or other porous materials. They catch 99.7% of airborne particles as small as 0.3 microns. The result: a healthier, more comfortable home!



is your room too cold — or too hot?

Remember Goldilocks and the Three Bears? There was porridge that was too hot, porridge that was too cold and a bowl that was just right.

That can be like rooms in your house throughout the year. Attics, basements and sunrooms can end up teeth-chatteringly cold in the winter or swelteringly hot in the summer. Luckily, we have an efficient, long-term HVAC solution that can get these rooms just right. And the installation is a breeze!

With a ductless mini-split, you can put whisper-quiet, energy-efficient heating and cooling right where you want it. These systems use heat pump technology and can be installed in less than a day. Send us a response card to get a free estimate.

