Big Gas Energy Cost Savings Through Zone Heating with Vent-Free Gas Appliances

Arlington VA. – October 7, 2005–With today’s steep increase in natural gas and propane energy prices, homeowners are being asked to conserve energy. Consumers are on the lookout for new ways to cut costs without sacrificing heating comfort. A successful money-saving answer that millions of homeowners have discovered is zone heating with vent-free gas supplementary heating appliances – turning down the central heating thermostat and heating only in those rooms that are being used. Reducing the central heating and supplementing with a vent-free gas appliance results in comfort and warmth when and where it is needed plus substantial energy cost savings. The American Gas Association states that, by turning your thermostat back 10 percent to 15 percent for eight hours per day, annual heating bills can be cut by 10 percent per year.

"Vent-free gas zone heating is an idea whose time has come," said Sue Walker, Chairman of the Vent-Free Gas Products Alliance. “You turn on your vent-free gas fireplace, stove, or heater for quick, efficient heat where the family gathers and you turn it off when you go to bed. All the while, you can keep your central system turned down. Many homeowners are saving upwards of $100 a month on energy costs this way. Homeowners need those savings today, and vent-free heating is a common-sense, safe, and comfortable way to do it. Millions of homeowners have found that vent-free heating is a money-saving solution they can no longer afford to ignore."

The key benefit of a vent-free gas fireplace, log set, fireplace insert, stove, or space heater is that there’s no need for venting, a hole-in-the-wall, or a chimney – only access to a natural gas or propane supply line. That makes installation of vent-free appliances quick, simple, and surprisingly economical.

Reliable Emergency Heat During Power Failures

Over sixteen million American homes already have vent-free gas supplementary heating appliances, and these products have sold at a blistering pace of over one million a year for several years now. Vent-free products range from 5,000 to 40,000 Btu – including 10,000 Btu units for bedrooms and 6,000 Btu units for bathrooms. Because most vent-free gas products do not require electricity, they provide reliable heat in case of any unexpected loss of electric power due to severe weather or other possible contingencies.

Vent-free appliances are available in a large selection of styles, sizes, and colors to suit any home décor. For fireplaces and log sets, homeowners can choose from such wood styles as charred hickory, driftwood, oak, weathered oak, maple, pine, aspen, birch, and many others. There’s also a wide choice of gas log types, such as split oak and solid pieces of wood, pine cones, as well as glowing embers – even an amazingly realistic set of coals in a gas-fired coal basket.

Vent-free fireplaces, stoves, and heaters can be installed just about anywhere in the home that has access to a gas line, even under a window, in a corner, or in the middle of a room. A masonry wood-burning fireplace can be easily converted by installing a set of vent-free gas logs. After a certified installer such as a licensed plumber installs the gas line, the vent-free hookup can usually be done in less than an hour.

All U.S. Code Groups Now Allow Vent-Free

Last year, Massachusetts joined 48 other states in approving the sale of vent-free supplementary gas heating products. With the Uniform Mechanical Code’s adoption of the use of vent-free products in September 2005, every gas code group in the U.S. now allows the sale and installation of vent-free gas appliances. Because codes are changing in a few cities and counties, it is a good idea to check with your local code official before making a purchase.

All vent-free gas products sold in the U.S. are equipped with a precision-engineered Oxygen Detection Safety-Pilot (ODS), which automatically shuts off the gas supply if the oxygen level in the room approaches a defined minimum set by the American National Standard Z21.11.2. This safety standard requires the product to satisfy many construction and performance requirements. More than sixteen million vent-free gas products have been installed in American homes over the 24 years since the introduction of the ODS in 1980. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has stated that it is not aware of any documented incident in the CPSC In-Depth Investigation (IDI) database of fatal CO poisoning associated with an ODS-equipped vent-free gas heating product. These appliances have earned an outstanding safety record.

For a free copy of the recently updated 16-page Consumer Guide to Vent-Free Gas Products – which includes detailed sizing guidelines, and the results of independent studies on indoor relative humidity and indoor air quality – write to the Vent-Free Gas Products Alliance, 2107 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201, or email to mcarson@gamanet.org. To find the closest dealer to you, visit the website at http://www.ventfree.org. Click on “Vent-Free Gas Products Alliance Members" and go to a manufacturer’s site, type in your zip code and you will be supplied with the closest dealer in your neighborhood