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EPA Qualified Outdoor Wood Furnaces

A new generation of clean

When John Hanley built his 4,000 square foot log home in a small Ohio township 17 years ago, he chose propane for heat and domestic hot water because it was an economical choice.

But, when propane prices increased and his annual fuel bill reached \$6000, he dropped the thermostat to 63°F to manage his costs. His wife, however, suffered with severe arthritis and lowering the ambient temperature caused her discomfort. He began looking for a more affordable home heating solution. His research led him to outdoor wood furnaces.

Today's outdoor wood furnaces, also called wood boilers or wood-fired hydronic heaters are a clean, cost-effective alternative to the safety, mess and health concerns of indoor wood burning, while also providing a ready supply of domestic hot water.

The outdoor furnace heats water in an insulated water jacket surrounding the firebox. The heated water circulates through underground pipes to a forced-air furnace, boiler or radiant floor heating system that distributes even, adjustable and comfortable heat.

Hanley knew some townships placed restrictions on the installation of outdoor wood furnaces to address smoke emission issues. It was important for him to set a good example in his own community

by choosing a unit that was EPA qualified. Central Boiler, an American-owned company in business since 1984, helped create the EPA Hydronic Heater Program. Their E-Classic was the first outdoor wood furnace meeting Phase 2 of the program.

Central Boiler's new E-Classic models utilize a three-stage gasification technology and a self-regulating thermostatically controlled system that burns wood so completely that combustion efficiencies approach 100%. This means the owner burns less wood, with very little residual ash and virtually no smoke. By minimizing the emissions, this cleaner generation of outdoor furnaces is the optimum choice for people concerned with the environment.

Hanley chose an E-Classic to heat a 2,500 square foot barn/garage in addition to his home and hot water. Now, Hanley's wife keeps the ambient house temperature at 76°F. "She's happy and she has endless hot water for her whirlpool bath," he says.

Company reliability was also a factor in his choice. "Central Boiler stands behind their products and this sort of warranty service is really important to me."

Finally, because he cuts his own wood, he has eliminated his home heating costs enabling him to redirect the money saved to their children's university educations.

"This furnace is the way to go. You can't beat it," says Hanley.



In 2002, concerns regarding smoke emissions from outdoor wood furnaces prompted a number of manufacturers to form the Outdoor Furnace Manufacturers Caucus and ultimately partner voluntarily with the EPA to create a program that gave homeowners choices for cleaner, more efficient models. EPA states that outdoor hydronic heaters that are EPA Phase 2 program qualified are 90% cleaner than unqualified units.



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to find your Local Dealer

*Up to \$1700 instant rebate savings on select in-stock Central Boiler Classic, E-Classic and Maxim outdoor furnace models, at participating dealers.
**Purchase a qualifying furnace between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2013 and receive up to a \$300 Federal Tax Credit. Central Boiler, Inc. is not a tax advisor. Taxpayers claiming a tax credit should consult a tax professional.

Tis the Season...for Holiday Scams

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - The Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities and the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) are reminding consumers to be vigilant against fraud and scams associated with holiday shopping. Five common scams to watch out for this season include:

1. Hacked Account Scam – A scammer may use technology to make it seem like your financial institution is calling you to inform you that your card or account has been compromised. They may have details like the last four numbers of your card or listing of recent purchases. This is an attempt to establish credibility and create an urgency to prevent additional fraudulent activity, while seeking additional sensitive financial information. Your financial institution will not call you unsolicited and ask for details such as your Social Security number, account or credit card numbers, or password. Always contact your financial institution directly using the phone number from your statement, bank card or their website to verify any calls from the institution.



2. Unbelievable Price on Hard-to-Find Items – Everyone enjoys a bargain, but if the item you're looking to purchase is showing for significantly less than compared to every major retailer, it is likely fraudulent. The scammer will try to sell you a plausible, but ultimately fictional, reason for the price difference. Fraudsters will tell you there are multiple people interested, but they'll let you buy it if you send payment immediately. Once you send the money, you'll receive bogus shipping information or never hear from them.

3. Bank Deposit Holiday Hustles – Having your checking or savings account information used for depositing mystery shopper checks or other deposits whose funds you don't know the source of can lead to financial loss and difficulty reestablishing banking services. When you endorse or sign a check, you are vouching for the legitimacy of those funds being available. A scam artist may send you a check for an amount to buy certain items to send somewhere, allowing you to keep a portion for yourself. If that check or funds are fraudulent, you will be liable for the entire balance.

4. Copycat Websites – Identity theft can occur despite taking precautions. Consumers can help reduce the chance of having their personal or financial information stolen by practicing safe online shopping. Malicious emails can appear to be from legitimate retail stores. Do not click on these links. Instead, bookmark the URL for your favorite stores to ensure you are accessing the appropriate site. If purchasing items online, be sure to monitor your accounts after for fraudulent or unauthorized charges.

5. Gift Cards – Gift cards can be a versatile and practical holiday gift but remember that no government agency will ever ask you to pay a fine, fee or penalty with a gift card. If you receive a call telling you to pay a debt or some other cost via gift card, that is a red flag of a scam. Hang up immediately. Once a scammer has the codes and pins from a gift card, it is extremely difficult to recover any funds.

Pennsylvanians who have fallen victim to a scam can contact their financial institution and local police department through non-emergency channels. Additionally, victims can file a complaint with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center.

In addition, the free "See Something, Send Something" smartphone application enables people to report suspicious activity. Consumers are encouraged to capture photographs, screenshot and other information and send directly to the PSP. Tips can also be sent to tips@pa.gov.