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sturtiGetty Images Many of us buy a new boiler when we are forced: when one cold day we wake up without hot water or heating and the quotes for repairs come higher than expected. If your boiler is on the old side - the average life expectancy is about 10-15 years, but many start to lose efficiency after eight years - the most economical option may be to invest in a new one. Or, your boiler may work fine, but it may be that your current model just no longer meets your needs; whether it's hot water and heating or its size or positioning. (It may be more cost effective to buy a new boiler than to move an existing one.) So, if you decided to go for a new model, what do you need to do next? How much does it cost to replace the boiler? The cost of a new gas boiler and installation can vary greatly, from 1,000 to 5,000 euros or more. The Energy-Saving Trust quotes around 2,300 pounds for a typical replacement and installation. The price will depend on a range of variables: the type of boiler you go on, combi, system or ordinary, for example, and whether you change the existing setting. The bottom line will also be affected by any additional work; if you move its location, or additional parts are required. The installation rate varies between areas and between companies. If you decide to go with a larger supplier such as the likes of the Big Six - British Gas, EDF Energy, E.ON, Npower, Scottish Power, and SSE - or through a local installer, we recommend shopping around and getting at least three quotes to find the best deal for you. Find a local installer in the Gas Safety Register (GSR)All gas engineers must be in the Gas Safety Register, which means you can find your own local installer if you want. Choosing a local installer should mean that you can easily contact them if there is any problem - Energy Saving Trust recommends checking that they have a local office, have been in business locally for several years and have links to customers that you may want to consider. A local installer may be able to give you impartial advice on the boiler brand. You should also check that every engineer is authorized to perform and check their gas secure ID cards. It's also worth bearing in mind that some installers can be tied to certain brands, so make sure you ask upfront if that's the case. For convenience in an all-in-one service from a large or medium-sized company, you can choose a larger service provider. One advantage for some is that these companies have set customer service settings and complaints procedures that can give mental Make sure you check that you are not being sold any unnecessary extras (coverage for many years that are already included in the boiler warranty, for example). We recommend always checking quotes with local installers for comparison, and note that while will have their own engineers, they can also use subcontractors. Use the full digital service There are some all-in-one online alternatives such as heat and Boxt that claim to offer fixed price quotes, calculated from you entering your needs and images that you upload, rather than having an engineer make a pre-quote visit to your home. Both offer the next day installation where it is available. Boxt GHI review BoxtThe process quote Our tester says he knew almost nothing about the boilers when he went to get the quote, but easily navigated the process - answering a number of manageable questions and uploading photos of his current setting (this is instead a pre-quote house visit). He had a call from a surveyor to check the part with the chimney, which was not clear from the photos. This did not change the quote, but it felt that it could be confirmed at the stage of uploading the photos if it was clear that they needed this information. The boiler installation, chimney and other necessary additional services were delivered by courier on the day of installation and a local certified installer arrived afterwards with the boiler. Its installation took half a day, but admittedly, its installation was not standard, as it had another work done on the spot at the same time. VerdictOverall, our tester was impressed by Boxt and said he would recommend the service to a friend, mainly to save the item's time. I found it a welcome digital update to what used to be a long, complex process. He noted that someone less used to online operations (uploading photos, for example, and not having a home visit) might find this a deterrent. Boxt say that if they encounter any problems when on the property to install, the customer has the right to cancel and receive a full refund. Saving money claimBoxt claims that its installation will save you money on a new boiler and install compared to the likes of the Big Six suppliers. The technical editor of GHI, Carrie-Anne Skinner, dug into these claims. She used the Boxt website to get a quote to directly replace the boiler for her property. Some of the kombi boilers she looked at offered nest training Thermostat (3rd generation) and Google Nest Mini as a supplement for 180 pounds. The thermostat only costs around 180 pounds, usually so effectively the deal gives you a Nest Mini for free (it's currently 49 pounds). However, it's only cost effective if you don't yet have a compatible smart speaker, and it's worth noting that the deal isn't available at all combis. There is also the option of supplementing Hive, but without any free extras. Using the same information, she received a quote from British Gas, It's 50 pounds more than Boxt, but British Gas doesn't say which boiler was priced before the home visit, so it's a longer, less convenient process. Another thing to consider is that British gas is working with Hive more So Boxt offers more choice when it comes to smart add-ons. Once installed, your engineer should always take you through how to use heating control and leave you with a certificate of compliance with building codes confirming that the boiler has been installed safely. Energy company commitment: Am I entitled to a free boiler? You can get a free boiler under the Energy Company Commitment (ECO3), a government scheme in conjunction with major energy suppliers in the UK, to help with both cost and energy efficiency. The right to qualify depends on income, being on certain benefits or having an old or inefficient boiler. For more information, visit Ofgem's website. For more brilliant money saving tips, subscribe to the Financially Fabulous newsletter here. SIGN UP This content is created and maintained by a third party and is imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content on the piano.io Steam Boiler is an old convection heating technology dating back more than 200 years and most commonly found in older homes. Because steam boilers operate at a higher temperature than hot water boilers, they are inherently less efficient than their hot water cousins, and are more fastidious in operation. Like a hot water heating system, the steam system distributes heat through one or more radiators in each room. But while the hot water radiator can be a thin wall block or convector, the steam radiator is a large, cast-iron masccara, the kind you see in old apartment buildings. Steam boilers are generally reliable, but they must be serviced regularly for better performance and durability. At the base of the steam boiler is a cast-iron tank filled with water about halfway through. The burner under the tank heats the water until it turns into steam. The steam rises up through the power pipe system to every radiator in the house. The heat of the steam is transferred to the radiator (and into the room through the air convection), causing the steam to condense and return to the water. The water moves the reverse pipes back to the radiator, where it heats up for the next cycle. Most steam boilers in homes are either one pipe or a two-foot system. Single-way (or single-stop) systems use the same pipes to deliver steam to radiators and to return water to the boiler. The steam rises up and the water falls down through the same pipes. The two-way system is relatively more modern and uses separate pipelines to supply steam and return water. An easy way to determine what type of system you have to look at: if only one pipe is connected to it, you have a single-pipe system. Two pipes, usually at opposite ends of the radiator, point to a two-toed system. Another key is that single-volume systems do not have temperature control on radiators; they have to be all the way or all the way Both single-pipe and two-track steam heating systems include ventilation to bleed air from the system with each heating cycle. The air is forced through the air vents to allow steam to enter the radiators. Single-key systems have air vents or a valve on each radiator. This is what causes the sound to play down, associated with very old heating systems. Using a two-tube system, the air is sent through a steam trap vent pipe located on a spillpipe. Steam boilers have several critical features for safety and proper operation: pressure sensor and regulator: Pressure monitors on and off the fuel supply to the boiler if the specified pressure level is exceeded Temperature and pressure valve: Releases steam, If the pressure sensor/regulator fails and the pressure builds dangerously high inside the glass sight level of boilerWater: A clean glass tube that shows the water level in the boiler-water cutoff: turns off the system if the water level of the boiler falls below the minimum level of the steam boilers are usually reliable and can run for 15 to 30 years or more, but they need more maintenance and regular gas inspections than the gas stove, for example. Many steam boilers should be checked weekly to make sure the water is at the right level. Too much water wastes energy, and too little water can weaken parts of the boiler due to overheating. Falling water levels can also indicate chronic problems such as leaks or valve failures. Another regular maintenance task is to flush part of the water to remove sediment and prevent problems with low water safety valves. It is usually a simple process of draining a bucket of water and then refilling the boiler with the same amount of fresh water. A quick flush and visual inspection of boiler control is a good weekly practice. In addition to servicing the homeowners, the boilers must be checked by a professional at the beginning of each heating season. Boiler technicians check critical controls and safety features and conduct a thorough visual inspection to address potential problems. Since most homes with steam boilers have very old systems that are expensive to replace or to convert to a different type of heating system- it really pays to follow a regular maintenance schedule to keep your boiler running as soon as possible. It's possible.

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