

EXPERT ADVICE

What You Should Know About Radiant Heat Fireplaces



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QUESTION: WHAT IS RADIANT HEAT?

Radiant heating is emitted from its source in rays, emulating natural sunlight. These rays pass through the air without heating it, and instead only solid objects, such as furniture and flooring, absorb the heat. Radiant heating can be used indoors as well as outdoors to supply confined heating. Because it heats the objects in a home instead of the air itself, the heat is confined to the living space rather than



rising to the ceiling, providing a more comfortable temperature.

Radiant gas fireplaces radiate heat through the glass and spread warmth into the people and objects in a room. Because the heating surface is much larger than other systems, a lower temperature can provide the same amount of heat transfer, resulting in more efficient heating, healthier humidity levels, and more satisfying warmth.

Valor is one of the leading manufacturers of radiant gas fireplaces, and is the main fireplace brand Bridlewood carries. Valor radiant gas fireplaces are available in inserts, freestanding and zero clearance models.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF RADIANT GAS FIREPLACES?

There are many advantages associated with radiant heating over convection heating:

Energy efficient: Valor focuses on energy efficiency. Because the heat is distributed directly into your living space, radiant heat replaces the chill from windows and doors by directly heating the objects in the room. Using up to 25 per cent less energy than forced air systems, radiant heat is a more satisfying heat that

makes you feel warmer with the same air temperature.

Value: Valor fireplaces have modulating gas valves and ceramic glass to provide heat to the living space so you can control the temperature and where it goes more efficiently. Radiant fireplaces are marginally more expensive than the alternatives, however when you consider the added features, performance and overall value they bring, they more than make up for the added cost.

Reliability: Valor Radiant gas fireplaces work while the power is out. While traditional gas fireplaces rely on the electric fan to distribute the heat, radiant doesn't rely on electricity, which provides piece of mind during our cold Canadian winters.

Less noise and allergens: Fans are not only loud, but they also blow hot air around the room, distributing allergens, dust and other particles in the air which can irritate people with allergies or asthma.

Great in any space: A great option for cabins or rural homes, a radiant fireplace is an economical and efficient heating option. ■