

Heating Through The Ages

With efficient and reliable heating in our homes, cars, and workplaces, it's easy to take modern heating methods for granted. However, it wasn't that long ago that forgetting about the wintry weather outside, even for a moment, was virtually impossible.

2500 B.C. – Ancient Greeks develop central heating systems using radiant heat. Hypocaust furnaces in upper-class homes heat empty spaces under the floors that connect to pipes in the walls.

400s A.D. – Heating methods become cruder with the fall of the Roman Empire.

800s A.D. – European castles are built with basic fireplaces featuring short flues to the outside, a basic form of a chimney. Stoves made from clay bricks are also used for warmth.

Late 1300s A.D. – A monastery in Greenland uses hot spring water to heat itself.

1500s A.D. – Masonry stoves, also called Russian or Swedish stoves, appear all over northern Europe. They are very large and sometimes feature tile coverings.

1652 A.D. – Dr. John Clarke, a member of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, invents the cast iron box stove.

1805 A.D. – Frederic Albert Winslow proposes gas can be used for heating, not just lighting, and is ridiculed.

1891 A.D. – The American Radiator Company consolidates many boiler and radiator manufacturers to become one of the largest makers of radiators in the world. The company is now called American Standard.

1905 – Wisconsin teacher Warren Johnson invents the humidostat, a primitive form of indoor humidity control. Johnson establishes the company known today as Johnson Controls.

1945 – In the post-World War II economic boon, residential air conditioning becomes more common. This contributes to the tremendous growth of cities in hot climates, including Miami, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Houston.

2000s – The advent of smart home technology allows homeowners and business owners to control indoor temperatures from their smartphones.

Facts and dates courtesy of ACHR News.