

HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS AT A GLANCE

	Type	Price Range*	Operating Cost**	Notes
Heating	Forced-air, electric furnace	\$250–\$750	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low installation cost • No venting required • May require 240-volt service • May stir finish-marring dust
	Forced-air, gas furnace	\$500–\$1,500	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in a wide range of sizes • Requires gas line, venting, and isolated combustion • May dry shop air and stir dust
	Direct-vent gas heater	\$750–\$1,500	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires gas line and possible wall reconfiguration • Takes up valuable wall space
	Radiant panel, electric heater	\$2,000–\$3,000	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No venting required • Does not stir dust • May require multiple units • Could leave cold spots
	Radiant tube, gas heater	\$5,000–\$7,000	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not stir dust • Requires 8' or higher ceilings and clearance near garage doors • Requires gas line and venting • Not widely available • Not available in lower Btu sizes
	Radiant in-floor, hydronic heater	Depends on size of workshop	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low operating cost: can be powered by a small water heater • Provides even heat throughout space • Does not stir dust • Requires new construction or new floor
Cooling	Portable air conditioner	\$300–\$700	Moderate/High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be moved for spot cooling • Requires venting via hose • Works best in small shops
	Window/wall air conditioner	\$200–\$800	Moderate/High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in a variety of capacities • Requires window or wall opening • Some come configured with heating element or heat-pump options
	Mini-split air conditioner	\$800–\$2,000	Moderate/High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in a variety of capacities • Cooling unit can be positioned almost anywhere • Some outdoor compressors can power multiple units • Some come configured with heating element or heat-pump options • Should be installed and charged by a licensed HVAC technician

*Prices based on systems with enough Btus to heat or cool a well-insulated one- or two-car garage shop in a moderate climate. Installation costs will vary by contractor. Operating costs will vary by region.

**Compared with other heating/cooling options in this chart. 🌳