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How To Install A Baseboard Heater

Problem: Your old wall heater is burned out, and you don't want to install central heat.

Solution: You can remove the burned out wall heater and replace it with a more efficient baseboard heater.



Equipment list:

- Flat bar
 - Circular saw
 - Drill
 - Phillips head bit
 - Assorted drill bits
 - Measuring tape
 - Belt sander or router
 - Screwdriver
 - Wire cutters
 - Hammer
 - Nail set
 - New baseboard heater
 - Safety glasses and gloves
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- This project includes instructions for replacing tongue and groove wall paneling, which some older homes use.
 - Many older homes use standard electrical cable to supply 220 volt current. The black and white wires both carry current.
 - Because you will be installing a high voltage heater, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions exactly.

Remove The Old Wall Heater

1. First, turn off the power at the circuit breaker box.
2. Remove the retaining screws, and remove the heater from the wall.
3. Clip the ends off the wires, and place wire nuts on the ends for added safety.

4. Carefully remove the trim and baseboard from the wall heater area.
5. Remove any old paneling pieces from above and below the wall heater cutout.

Replace The Tongue and Groove Paneling

- When replacing tongue and groove paneling with non tongue and groove wood, you will need to remove the tongue from the paneling piece that abuts the regular wood.
 - You will also need to install extra support blocks between the studs behind the wood so that the new boards do not move independently of one another. Simply cut a piece of 2X4 to the appropriate length and secure it to the studs by toe-nailing or screwing.
1. After removing the tongue from the last panel piece, nail the panel piece back into position.
 2. Measure the lengths for the new boards and cut them to size. You may need to rip the boards to get the necessary widths.
 3. Use a belt sander or a router to bevel the edges of the boards so that they match the original paneling. If you use a belt sander, be careful not to gouge the wood.
 4. Stain the boards to match the original panels.
 5. After the stain has dried, pre-drill nail holes in the top, middle and bottom of the new boards. Then nail all but the centerboard into place using sixpenny finish nails. Drive the nails until they are almost flush with the surface, and then use a nail set to drive them just below the surface.
 6. Before putting up the last board, drill a 1" hole about 2" from the bottom and thread the electrical cable through from the back. Then nail the last board in place.
 7. Fill the nail holes using a wax putty stick or other nail hole filler.

Install The New Baseboard Heater

1. Remove the wire nuts and run the wires through the heater clamp.
2. Connect the ground wire to the appropriate terminal on the heater.
3. Strip approximately 5/8" of insulation from the wires, and connect the heater wires to the house wires. Secure the connection with wire nuts.
4. Tuck the wires into the back of the heater and attach the panel.
5. Secure the heater to the wall with screws and replace any trim pieces. You may need to cut your trim to accommodate the new heater.

Need More Information – Call Us at 800.472.3292

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