

Many homeowners usually have a long list of things they would like to do to improve their home. Maybe it is a big project such as remodeling the kitchen or it's a simpler venture such as painting. In any case, one thing we all wonder is will there be a reasonable return on the investment, economically and in terms of enjoyment of the house?



Recently Marshall Plumbing encountered Nanaimo homeowners with the same questions. Elaine and Chris called in looking for ideas on replacing an older oil furnace with a more efficient system. Compounding the issue was space restrictions – a closet sized room housing the current oil furnace and storage hot water tank.

The installation of a Rinnai unit along with an air handler was suggested by plumber Nick. As Elaine puts it, "As first-time homeowners, we were looking forward to being able to fit our house with the most energy efficient products available - a tankless hot water system was a great first step down that path." The air handler (also known as a "hydronic furnace") would act in line with the tankless unit to serve as the primary heating source, saving the home owner from purchasing a full gas furnace, saving energy and saving space!

A Rinnai tankless water heater provides endless hot water only when needed. When water flow is detected, the unit begins heating water as it passes through its copper heat exchanger. When the demand for water ceases, the tankless unit shuts down and uses no energy. The air handler pipes some of that hot water over to the hydronic furnace to heat the air passing over the hydronic coil, thereby heating the home.



"We had researched the benefits of tankless hot water systems and knew we were going to enjoy the "endless" supply of hot water - no one would bear the brunt of being the last to shower with tepid water! We recently had guests over for a weekend visit - four

consecutive hot showers were taken on **Sunday** morning without a single problem.” explains Elaine.

Over a couple of days, the existing furnace and hot water tanks were removed; and the new system was installed, with a return visit to tweak the system. "The Air Handler is so much better than our old oil heater. Our gas bills are far more affordable than our previous oil purchases. We were



happily surprised with two other features that the Air Handler provided - first, the air flow throughout our house increased substantially compared to the old furnace; and second, we found that the quality of the air was markedly better. Without oil burning, the air in our house is cleaner, less humid, and much less dusty!" notes Elaine.

Both units run at 96% energy efficiency and are eligible for rebates to help offset costs. Water heating along with home heating and cooling is the largest energy expense in your home and renovating those areas *will* save you money and improve you quality of life.