

# Degree Days

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**Degree days** are computed from each day's mean temperature ( $\text{max} + \text{min} / 2$ ). Each degree that a day's mean temperature is below or above a reference temperature is counted as one degree-day. The amount of fuel necessary for home or industrial heating is indicated by the mean temperature for that day. Estimates are that most people use their furnace when the mean daily temperature drops below 65F.

**Heating degree-days** are determined by subtracting the mean temperature for the day from the reference temperature. Thus, if the mean temperature for a day is 50F and the reference temperature is 65F, there would be  $15(65 - 50)$  heating degree-days on this day. On days when the mean temperature is above the reference temperature, there are no heating degree-days. Therefore, the lower the average daily temperature, the more heating degree-days and the greater the consumption of fuel.