

# Vent-Free Supplemental Gas Heating Products: Proven 24-Year Track Record For Outstanding Safety

By Mary Carson

*Article originally published in the Official magazine, September/October 2005; Reprinted with permission of The IAPMO Group Copyright 2005-06. [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)*

**C**elebrating their 20th anniversary, the Vent-Free Gas Products Alliance (VFGPA) of GAMA is comprised of 14 competing manufacturers organized to: work with codes and standards groups; provide educational and training seminars; remove barriers from the marketplace; preserve current markets; sponsor third party research; cooperate with gas utilities and propane groups; and distribute consumer information.

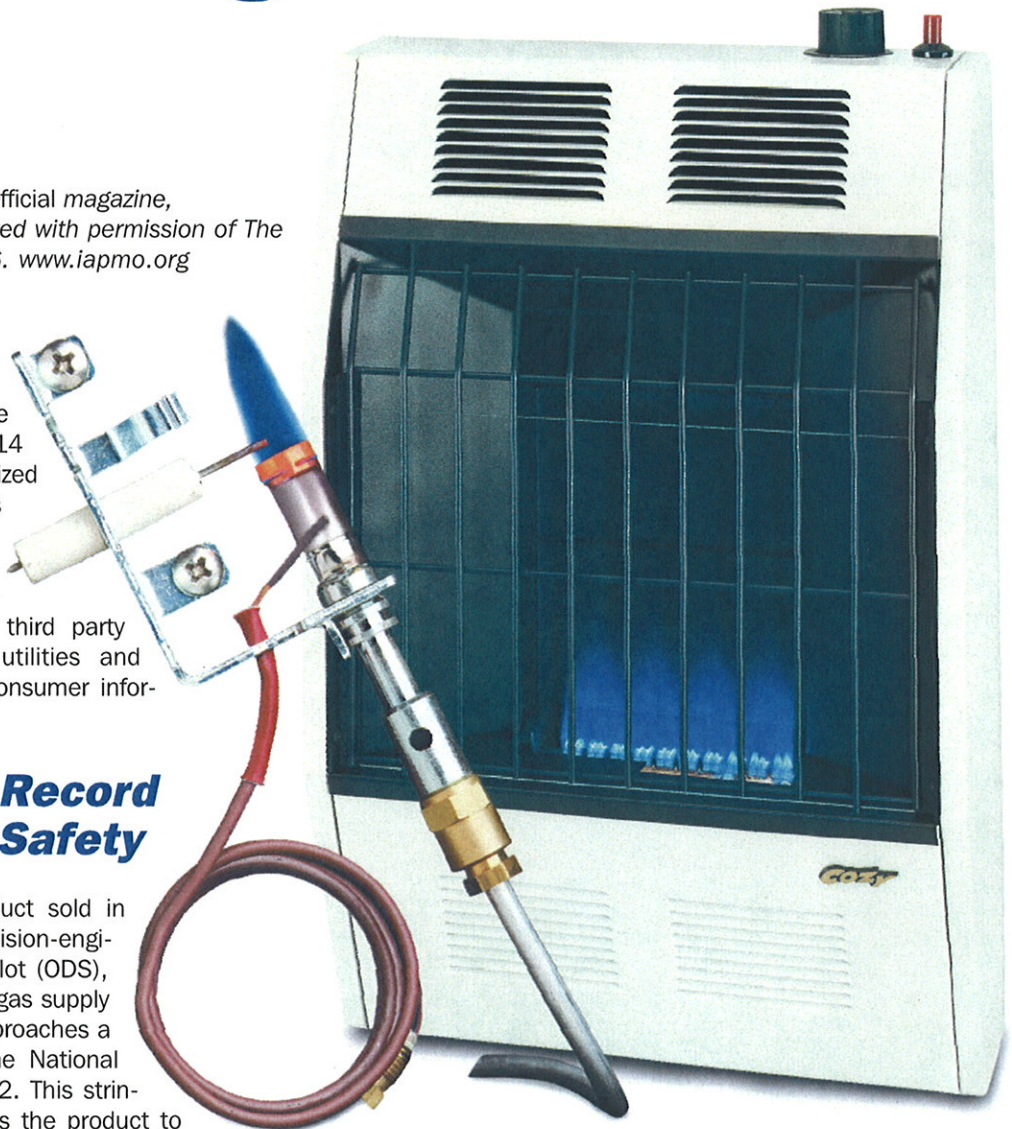
## A 24-Year Track Record for Outstanding Safety

Every vent-free gas product sold in the U.S. is equipped with a precision-engineered oxygen detection safety-pilot (ODS), which automatically shuts off the gas supply if the oxygen level in the room approaches a safe defined minimum set by the National Product Safety Standard Z21.11.2. This stringent safety standard also requires the product to

satisfy many construction and performance requirements, including a 40,000 Btu/hr maximum, dedicated fuel type per model (no field conversion), precision burners for the cleanest combustion, fixed installation to gas supply, non-adjustable regulators and a gas valve that automatically shuts off the unit should there be an interruption in fuel supply.

## Vent-Free Gas Heat Used in Over 16 Million American Homes

Since 1980, over 16 million American homes have relied on vent-free gas space heaters, fireplaces, logs, inserts and stoves for supplemental heating. More than one million are sold on an annual basis. Because they operate on natural gas or propane, they can be placed almost anywhere in the home. These products do not require a chimney, vent, or hole-in-the-wall or ceiling, so all of the heat



they produce stays in the home rather than being lost up a chimney. The 99% efficiency of vent-free gas appliances allows homeowners to save heating dollars by zone heating—turning down the home's thermostat and still enjoying safe and instant heating in the rooms they are using. And because most vent-free gas products don't require electricity, they provide reliable heat even during severe electric power outages.



The image above represents an example of a CFM stove.

## **Third Party Research Confirms Favorable Product Performance**

In December 2002, a comprehensive study was completed by risksciences, LLC, an independent scientific consulting firm nationally recognized for its expertise in human exposure modeling in residential environments. The research study concluded: For the vast majority of homes in the U.S. (99%), vent-free gas heating products do not generate enough water vapor to raise indoor humidity levels high enough to foster mold growth.

This study follows a 1996 independent study commissioned by the AFGPA on the effects of vent-free gas products on indoor air quality (IAQ). This IAQ study was conducted by the American Gas Association's Research Division (AGAR), which at the time was the most prominent independent research body for gas products.

The AGAR scientists tested the levels of all five major contributors of indoor air quality—oxygen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and water vapor (humidity)—against the latest U.S. indoor air quality guidelines and recommendations for all regions of the U.S. and all types of

construction. The researchers concluded that: Vent-free gas products performed well within nationally-recognized guidelines for indoor air quality. (Details of both studies can be found at [www.ventfree.org](http://www.ventfree.org))



Sue Walker shown here speaking to IAPMO's Technical Committee at this year's TC Meetings in Denver, Colorado.

Since the beginning of the year, Sue Walker, chairman of the Alliance, and Mary Carson have met with IAPMO chapters to share safety and technical information on vent-free units. Walker says: "The Alliance is excited about exhibiting at the IAPMO Vendor Exhibit in Albuquerque and we hope that IAPMO members will stop by booths 1 and 2 to see all categories of vent-free gas appliances. We also will have a drawing for a vent-free supplemental heating gas fireplace."



Mary Carson explains several points regarding vent-free gas products to the Technical Committee.

Members can also request a free copy of the *Consumer Guide to Vent-Free Gas Products* or the *Builder's Brochure* by writing the Vent-Free Gas Products Alliance, 2107 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201; e-mail to [mcarson@gamanet.org](mailto:mcarson@gamanet.org); or by visiting the Web site at <http://www.ventfree.org>.