

Pros and Cons LP vs Diesel Fired Burners Systems

Many of the Stepp asphalt maintenance units are offered in both LP (liquid propane) and diesel fired burners Systems. Below, we will outline some of the pro's and con's of both systems.

140,000 BTU/gallon of diesel fuel Average price per gallon 3.85-4.10

91,600 BTU/Gallon of LP Average Price per Gallon 2.35-2.65

Diesel Burners give you about 1 ½ times more BTU than LP but does cost more. The cost per BTU is very similar and almost a wash.

LP Pro's

Less expensive burner system

Simple design

Does not require 12 volt electric power to fire unless they have spark ignition and auto temp controls

Can regulate the amount of heat by turning the valve up or down

LP Con's

Small orifices that can get plugged easily

Pressurized fuel system can continue burning if the unit has a malfunction

Fuel is less available than diesel

You have to deal with LP cylinders

Very flammable if you have a leak

LP burners have an exposed flame required for combustion.

More sensitive to blow outs

Many insurance companies require the LP tank to be removed before entering a building for storage or service

Burner system that requires a combination of component parts

Diesel Pro's

Commercially available burner system, very similar to the home heating industry

More consistent heat

Very safe non-pressurized fuel

Burner has lock-out mode that shuts the burner system down when there is a malfunction

Fuel is available everywhere

More BTU's per gallon

Forced air burner has no exposed flame

All-in-one burner system

Diesel Con's

Requires 12 volt power to operate

Burner system has more components to maintain: blower, fuel pump, primary control, cad cell, ignition module

More expensive burner