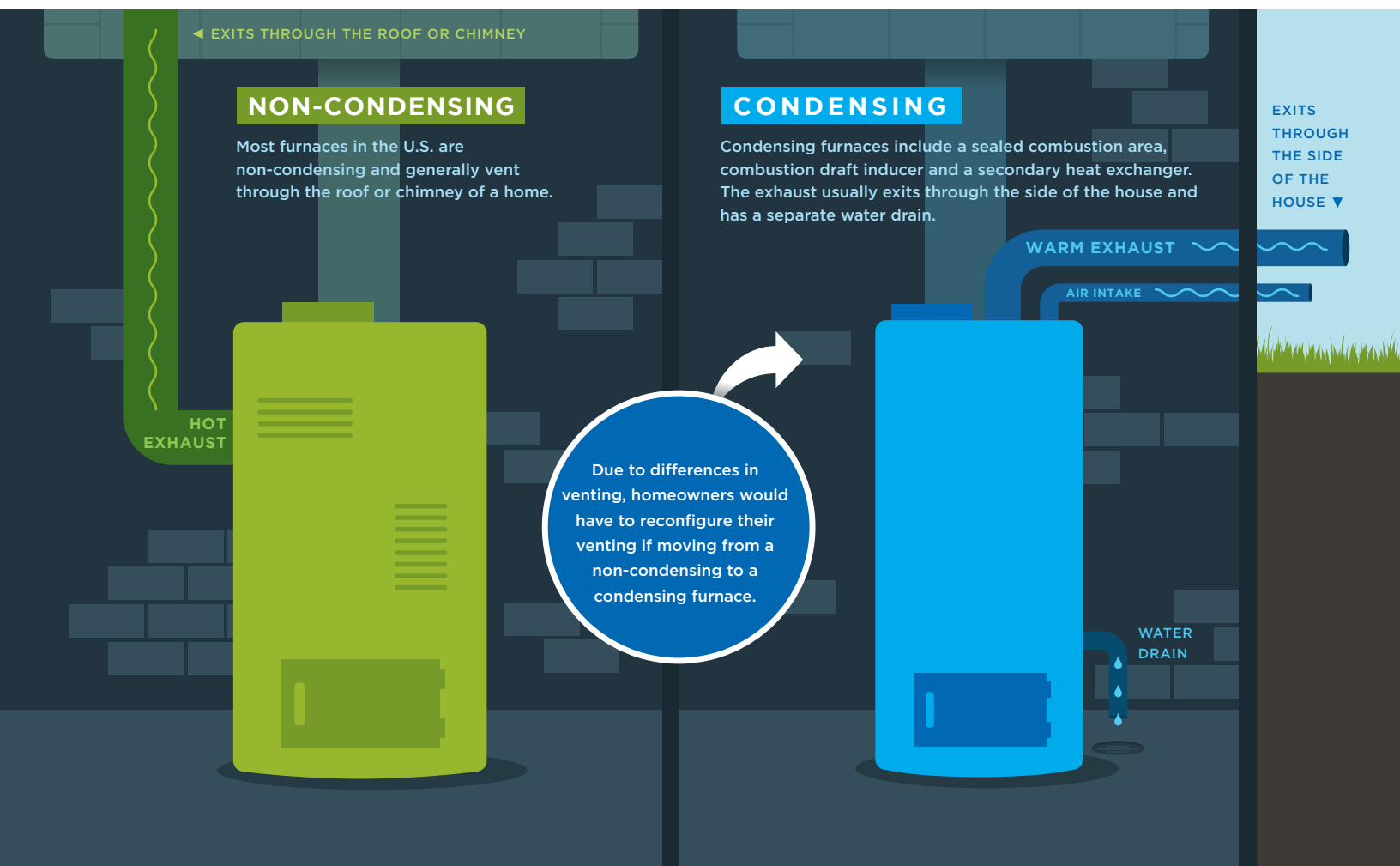


## NATURAL GAS: SAFE AND RELIABLE



177 million Americans use abundant natural gas to heat their homes and water and cook their food. But new standards by the U.S. Department of Energy could lead to switching away from natural gas to other fuels that could negatively impact consumer costs and the environment.

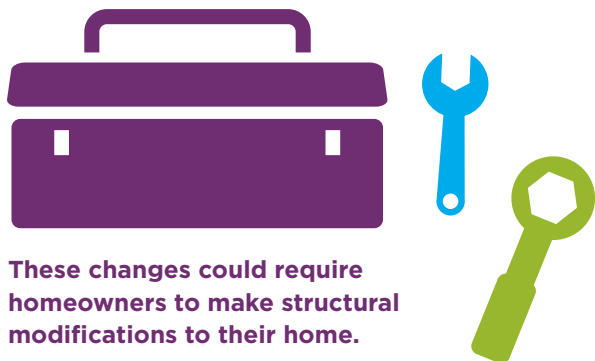


**These changes could impose significant costs,** driving homeowners away from natural gas to alternative fuel heating systems that could be ultimately less efficient and less cost effective.

New standards could eliminate non-condensing furnaces, forcing homeowners and builders to use a condensing natural gas furnace, or because of cost and logistics select an alternative heating system.

**New standards** from the U.S. Department of Energy could eliminate non-condensing furnaces.

## HOW WOULD THESE STANDARDS IMPACT HOMEOWNERS?



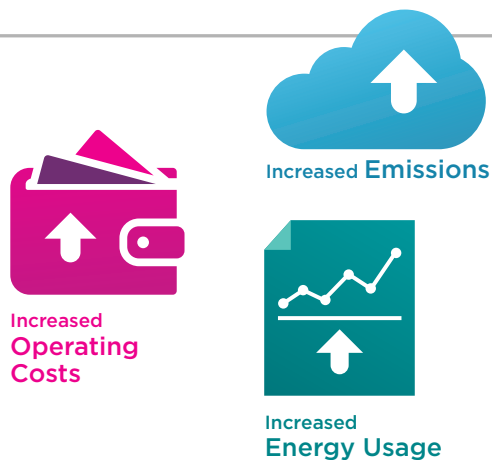
**These changes could require homeowners to make structural modifications to their home.**

### Structural Modifications

New condensing furnaces cannot be connected to the existing venting in a home, and require a new venting system and possible relocation of the equipment. This increases the installation cost of the more energy efficient natural gas heating system options.

### Challenges

There are situations where a homeowner or builder wouldn't be able to install a condensing furnace, forcing them to switch to another fuel for heating. Challenges include if a homeowner could not access an external wall, like in apartments or condominiums, if outside venting is restricted by a homeowners' association, or if a homeowner could not meet venting requirements related to nearby windows, doors, or other air intakes.



### Unintended Consequences

Homeowners and builders would be incentivized to move away from natural gas because of the associated costs and changes that would need to be made to the home, causing operating costs, energy usage and emissions to go up.