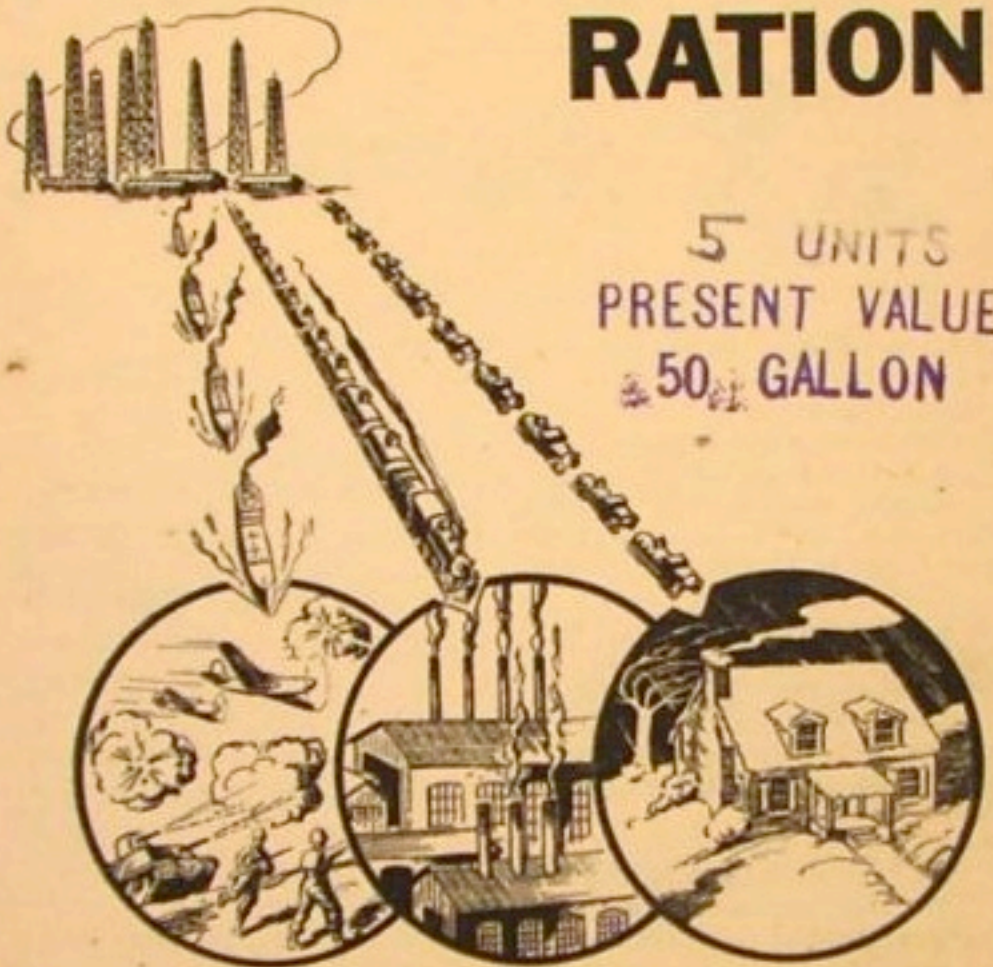
YOU AND YOUR FUEL OIL RATION



5 UNITS
PRESENT VALUE
50¢ GALLON

5 UNITS
PRESENT VALUE
GALLON

The Why and How of Fuel Oil Rationing and What To Do About It!

***BECAUSE** the fuel oil rationing order and regulations must necessarily be written in great detail, they are difficult to absorb. They're laws. They're technical. That is the reason for this booklet. In simple, easy-to-understand language, it answers the most frequently asked questions about fuel oil rationing. Should you want more specific or detailed information, write your War Price and Rationing Board—or if you must, consult them in person.*

CONTENTS

***Keep this booklet.** It contains information you'll want through the 1943–44 heating season.*

Why Fuel Oil Rationing?

LIKE all rationing programs, the fuel oil program is set up to protect *you*. To make sure that you get your fair share . . . after military demands have been supplied. Without this assurance, you would run the risk of not getting the fuel oil you need for heating or cooking or lighting or operating your farm machinery. Without rationing, a war-short supply would soon be depleted by a few people—the rest would get no oil.

A Weapon Goes to War

Fuel oil is a vital weapon in modern warfare . . . every bit as important as guns, planes, tanks. In fact, this motorized war *is* a war of oil. Therefore, the military demands of our fighting forces must be supplied first . . . and these demands have increased unbelievably. For example, to get technical, some of the military uses of fuel oil today are:

33,000 gallons a *day*—to run one army transport loaded with troops and equipment.

3,000 gallons an hour—to drive a modern destroyer at top speed.

12,000 gallons an hour—to move an aircraft carrier at high speed.

In World War I, an infantry division was supplied with vehicles having a horsepower of 3,200. Today, one of our mechanized infantry divisions rolls on toward victory in vehicles with a combined horsepower of 400,000.

It goes without saying that these military demands *are* supplied first . . . before the requirements of industry . . . before the needs of private citizens. After the armed forces are supplied, industrial requirements must be taken care of. Hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil every day.

529458°—43

And finally, come the needs of the private consumer. But even with all these vast accumulated demands upon the available supply of fuel oil, there will be enough left over to heat your home . . . to do your cooking or lighting . . . and to operate your farm machinery . . . . *if you cooperate!*

Getting the Weapon to the Front

Low-lying tankers, brim-full to the decks, used to move in a never-ending chain along the Gulf coast to supply the Eastern seaboard's great peacetime demands for petroleum. Actually, an oil tanker used to dock at an East Coast port every 80 minutes, night and day! But not any more! Some of the tankers were sunk. Others were taken over by the Navy. They used to bring in 95 percent of the East's oil supply. Now they bring in none of it.

Instead of the tankers, railroads now carry oil to the East. Great trains, 70 or 80 cars long, are *highballing* night and day . . . pipelines and inland water routes are helping, too. But the demand for oil still increases. You can see the news of this—in the news of expanding battle fronts and new campaigns against the Axis.

So tank cars have replaced tankers—even though it takes as many as 700 tank cars to equal one large tanker. Many of the tank cars formerly used for short hauls in the Midwest are now running on the long trips to the East coast. And the Midwest, consequently, has fuel-oil shortages.

How It Works and How It Got That Way

As we have seen, the purpose of fuel-oil rationing is to divide fairly the available, war-reduced supply. Your share is a war share—necessarily a smaller amount than you burned in peacetime. But it is figured by the same formula as your neighbor's.

For most people last year it was not too small.

And you realize the *difference* between your ration and what you used to burn has gone into a troop ship or a destroyer. It doesn't matter, of course, whether it's 100 octane gas or fuel oil for a Diesel engine—they're both petroleum, they go to war in the same tank car and tanker. They're fighting for you instead of keeping you warm.

The same is true of your neighbor's fuel oil—his cut is fighting too. Taken all together, American oil consumers have made rationing a powerful weapon . . . against the Axis.

Behind the Plan

When the rationing plan was designed a year ago, careful attention was paid to insure against unfairness. A plan was worked out with the help of heating experts and industry representatives—a plan which in some cases cut the careless consumer more than 50 percent. But, on the other hand some folks were cut only 15 percent because their heating plants had been run at just about maximum efficiency. For the great majority of people, however, last year's ration amounted to a cut of about 30 percent.

It would have been much easier—and very much less fair—simply to give everyone a fixed percentage cut. But that would have left the extravagant consumer well off—he could simply close his windows—while his neighbor who had already done everything possible to save oil would be penalized. And so the plan was worked out as a sort of sliding scale, in effect rather like the income tax.

Also Behind the Plan

Many considerations other than your past use of oil are also part of the plan. For example, the amount of heated space allowed each person. Only the amount of space that can be *reasonably* heated for living purposes is figured in. Otherwise, 2 people living in a 30-room house might burn enough oil to keep a dozen small houses warm. The formula allows for heating 3,600 square feet for the first 2 members of a household and 300 square feet for each additional member.

Hot-water requirements are figured in if the oil burner is connected with a domestic hot-water heater—again on a reasonable average. Fifteen gallons a month for the first person and five gallons for each additional member of the household.

Periods

The weather experts supplied information for another part of the program—the heating periods. Using figures recorded by the United States Weather Bureau over the past 43 years, it was possible to divide the year into 5 heating periods, each having equal amounts of cold weather.

There are two primary reasons for these heating periods—*You* and the *Supply*. If there were no periods and, consequently you could use up all your coupons early in the winter, your tank might be dry by Washington's Birthday. Under the heating period arrangement, you can't become this kind of spendthrift. You must buy your oil periodically throughout the year as coupons become valid.

The second reason for these heating periods is *Supply*. Your Government can make prompt adjustments of the amount of oil each series of coupons is good for—more oil for you if the supply permits more for civilians, and less oil for you when our military demands are raised by the opening of new fronts.

Coupons

That is why most of your coupons are period coupons of "indefinite" value. They may be worth 10 gallons of fuel oil in the first heating period. But they may be worth 11 or 9 gallons, in the next heating period. It depends on the supply. And the supply depends on our war needs, the weather, transportation, manpower, and a number of other unpredictable considerations. The indefinite value period coupons assure you that your Government, alert to *all* these considerations, can give you the maximum *possible* amount for your ration during any given period.

The definite value coupons on the left side of the sheet are, as you know from experience, for making change with your dealer, who can't always deliver exactly the number of gallons of oil represented by your *period* coupons.

Last Year's Record—Off the Record

In spite of all the gloomy prophecies, fuel-oil rationing caused *no* American to freeze to death last winter. The plain fact stands that Americans withstood discomfort at home knowing that it helped our men in uniform.

Fuel-oil rationing was a new program. Nothing like it had ever been tried anywhere in the world before. And the great majority

of the millions of citizens affected by it came through without hardship. The oil they didn't burn has gone to war against the Axis. Fuel-oil rationing is making it much tougher on Hitler and Hirohito than on anybody here.

Hardship?

There were some cases of hardship last year. However, most of them were caused by carelessness. Some folks never will conserve until too late—they won't cut down until the tank's almost empty. These people were—and still will be—penalized for their carelessness.

The Doctor Speaks

Public health officials all over the rationed area have been asked about illness due to lowered home temperatures. They were consulted when the plan was first drawn up—they've approved it again after a year's workout. Many of them, far from finding any harm done, found that health was improved by the lower temperatures.

The Heating Expert Speaks

Engineers also set their seal of approval on the plan last year and this year too. The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers have said—in effect—"O. K."

A Note On Small Houses

But no one is taking any credit for the job that's been done. If you live in a small house with less than 600 to 1,000 square feet of floor space (it depends upon your zone), you may have had undue trouble making your fuel-oil ration stretch through each heating period. This year some small houses are automatically going to get larger rations.

Looking Ahead Without Shivering

Along with this booklet came those precious ration coupons which should see you through next year's cold weather. Take good care of them. Keep them in a safe place. Remember that you can't buy fuel oil without them. Use them just as you did last year. And if you move to another address, be sure to surrender your coupon sheet to your local board.

The Last of Last Year's Coupons And the First of This

Along with the coupons you now have on hand you probably have some space in your storage tank. Order your oil *now*. Have your storage tank filled as far as your coupons will allow. You relieve the delivery problem by allowing your oil dealer to make his call in the slack season. And you relieve the national storage problem by making room in the supplier's tanks for more oil to be brought in after yours is delivered.

You *may* have three kinds of coupons on hand, all good *now:*

(1) The last of last year's coupons, that is, Period 5 of your *old* sheet;

(2) The first of this year's coupons, that is, Period 1 of your *new* sheet;

(3) The fixed value inventory coupons on the bottom of your new sheets.

Have your tank filled as full as you can, now.

But don't use this newly acquired oil which is for heating your home next winter until the cold weather really starts!

Your Ration is Elastic

Coupon Stretch

You can't tell much about the weather beforehand. But you know that it isn't going to be the same from day to day. So your oil consumption shouldn't be the same either. Smart folks will figure that the weather is going to be *worse* tomorrow—and will use up their coupons as *slowly* as they can at the beginning of a period.

You don't have to worry about being left with a number of useless coupons at the end of a period. Because they stretch—that is, their validity periods overlap. Period 1 coupons are valid throughout Period 2. Period 2 coupons are valid throughout Period 3, and so on.

That coupon overlap also enables you to have larger deliveries each time by combining coupons of two periods. In that way you use up the coupons left over from the preceding period.

Cushion Stretch

Even more elastic than the coupons of any given period, are the coupons you should use now for your *cushion*. The period coupons stretch over two periods—the cushion should stretch 12 months!

Here's how it works:

During the summer you can use *one-third* of your whole ration to get oil into your tank. That's exactly why there are fixed-value inventory coupons on the bottom of your new sheet amounting to one-sixth of the total number of your coupons. Added to your Period 1 coupons (another sixth of your total ration), these two groups of coupons provide one-third of your total ration for immediate use. The oil you get with those inventory coupons is called a "cushion."

This cushion protects you *all year long* against the heavy blow of a sudden bad turn of weather. Comes a blizzard—there's the cushion against it. It is your *reserve oil for an emergency*. Treat it that way—use it up in as nearly equal parts for each period as the weather permits. If you use it carelessly—remember, the weather is tough on careless folks.

Double Stretch

Your ration has been called *elastic*—and it is. But not if *you* don't stretch it. You are the one to watch the temperature of your house and govern your oil consumption accordingly. *You* are the one to use your coupons *only as you need to.*

There's been a lot written about the so-called "ideal temperature" of a room. The Eskimos, who are a notably healthy race, haven't read any of it. They aren't superstitious about keeping a room at 70°.

And you aren't either—probably. Not any more. You must have found out last year that *you* could keep warm enough on your fuel-oil ration by using it carefully—and by wearing a sweater to help.

No one can tell you what temperature your ration *calls for*—it doesn't call for any specific temperature. You can burn up your whole ration, keeping your house colder than freezing—if you leave your windows open. In America there are no Gestapo agents to make you do this or that with your ration. It's *yours*, remember, and it *can* keep you warm. Look over the suggestions in this booklet for conserving heat. And use your own ingenuity.

Quite a number of people last year found that checking themselves on the number of coupons they used, helped them to prevent using coupons too fast. Many oil companies supply charts as a free service to their customers. These charts are like a cash budget form. One is included in the back of this book. It provides spaces to record the delivery of oil, and the amount you've used. It enables you to keep a running account that shows how much oil your furnace is burning, and will warn you when you are using your fuel oil too fast.

So it's up to you. You can stretch your coupons by using them carefully. You can stretch your oil ration by conserving heat. That's the double stretch of an elastic fuel-oil ration. You're the one to do the stretching to your advantage and for your comfort.

Help Your Oil Dealer To Help You

For the duration of the war, you and your Government are working as close partners in the business of keeping you supplied with fuel oil. And you have another partner—*your fuel-oil dealer.*

When it comes to making deliveries, *you* can be a big help. The Government has ordered conservation of trucks, tires, and manpower—because the war drains these away to the battlefront. Your dealer *must* conserve what he has left. He's been told the number of miles he can drive his trucks. He's been told he can't make special deliveries or second calls to the same place the same day.

He's trying to give you the best service he can—after he has given every possible service to our Armed Forces. You can help him save his trucks if you order, within the limits of your storage tank, an amount as large as your coupons will permit. Be at home when deliveries are made or deposit your coupons with the dealer. If you are working in some war plant, or if it is necessary for you to be away from home, make arrangements for deliveries during your absence. You should anticipate your needs in advance and place your orders at least 48 hours ahead. This will help him to route his trucks better and permit him to leave the bulk plant with a full load.

Be sure you give him specific directions for delivery to avoid delay in locating the fill pipe. At the time when you have your burner inspected, have the storage equipment checked and make sure that there is no fill or vent line stoppage.

If you will follow these few suggestions, it will help save trucks, tires, and time. This will give greater assurance of getting the oil to you when you want it, and that there will be trucks to deliver your oil this winter, and next winter too.

A White Note and A Black Note

The White One—Perhaps with a Red Cross

"Extra Rations"—that could have been the title of this section. But it wouldn't quite fit—because they are extra rations only for people in extra-trying circumstances. They are not for everyone. They are not easy to get. They are not even "extra" really—because they are designed to cope with certain emergency situations.

Take sickness for example: You can't predict sickness. You can't tell when a certain room in your house must suddenly be made into a hospital room. But when the doctor orders it and prescribes a certain temperature, higher than your ration allows, see your local board. With the doctor's signature on your application for a special ration, you can be sure your local board will do whatever it can to help you get the oil you need.

The same is true of other emergencies. If your oil supply or coupons are stolen, burned up, or depleted in some other purely accidental way, you can apply for a special ration from your local board. They may want to investigate the case—and if they do, help them.

One kind of extra ration is virtually automatic. If you have children under 4 years old in your household, you get an allowance of 125 gallons a year in Zone A, 100 gallons in Zone B, 75 gallons in Zone C, and 50 gallons in Zone D.

When you need special help, see your local board—or, better yet, write to them. You almost always *have* to make applications in writing anyway. The Board, as you know, is made up of your fellow-citizens and neighbors, serving without pay. They will give you fair treatment and courtesy—you can give them understanding and patience.

The Black Note—Perhaps with Skull and Crossbones

War or no war, there are always some people who want a larger share than their neighbors are getting. In this case, they want more money

than honest oil dealers are getting, so they *sell* black market oil—or they want more oil than their ration, their fair share, allows, so they *buy* black market oil. It takes two to make a black market.

Don't be one of them.

You may get poor quality fuel, of course, damaging your heating plant, clogging the pipes, wearing out the parts. You will certainly pay more than the ceiling price, because the profiteer in the black market is in the dirty game for profit, not to pamper you. And, of course, the worst result is to deplete the whole oil supply—*a war supply.*

The first call on that war supply of fuel oil comes from our boys overseas. The black market drains oil away from war industry, making their weapons—which they need for their very lives.

The second call on that war supply of fuel oil comes from war industry itself. The black market impedes the output of steel, the movements of convoys of ships, and the production of weapons.

The third call on that war supply of fuel oil comes from civilians like yourself. The black market cuts into civilian allotments of heat for homes, schools, and churches.

There are law enforcement agencies out after the black markets. But *you* are the greatest law enforcement agency in the land. You can stamp out the black market with your ration coupons. *Always* use them when you purchase fuel oil—and *never* pay more than the ceiling price for it.

Conservation

The oil in your tank was brought in by an overburdened emergency transportation system along with the oil needed by our Army and Navy. Unless you take precautions *now*, a large part of the heat from this costly fuel may escape up your chimney, out through walls and ceilings, windows and doors.

More Heat From Less Oil

A SEVEN POINT GUIDE TO CONSERVE OIL

1. Have your heating plant checked by a competent service man.
2. Make your house heat-tight to keep heat in and cold air out.
3. Use your oil efficiently.
4. Keep the temperature down to wartime levels.
5. Close off rooms you don't absolutely need.
6. Dress warmly.
7. Don't throw bedroom windows wide open at night.

There's Cash Waiting to Help You Save Oil

The money you spend now to save oil is a war investment. It will pay dividends in a warmer home in winter and in lowered fuel costs. If you can't afford to lay out the cash right now, you can borrow the money for fuel conservation through FHA. Ask your bank about the liberal terms of these home improvement loans that permit 3 years for repayment.

Put your heating equipment in good condition.—Your chimney may be sucking out half of the heat from the oil fed into your furnace. Out of each 100 gallons of oil, 30 to 60 gallons may be lost through faulty equipment. Thorough overhauling of your heating plant is the only remedy. Here is what you can do before next winter with the help of a service man:

Clean the flue passages at least at the start of the season, oftener if possible; make a complete combustion check-up; make certain of the proper adjustment of the draft regulator with a gage, and seal all air leaks; clean and adjust the oil burner.

Keep the heat inside the house.—A great deal of heat can be saved by proper insulation. No matter whether you live in a one-, two-, or three-story house, here are things to do now to conserve heat in winter. Many of these things pay the added dividend of insulating your house against heat in summer—making it cooler in summer, warmer in winter.

Insulation.—Materials available for home insulation include loose fill, blanket, batt type, and insulating board. The sketches show how these can be used.

Storm windows and doors.—So many people have bought storm windows in recent months that they are becoming difficult to obtain. But they can prevent a lot of heat loss. If you can't get as many as you want, use the ones you have on the exposed windy side of

the house, usually the North side. Many people are taping on a pane of glass over the window frame on the inside of the house.

Weather stripping and calking.—Cold air leaking in around windows and doors can be prevented by weather stripping and calking. Hardware stores nearby will supply materials and full instructions at modest cost.

Here is a simple table to show real yearly savings possible by only two of many conservation methods:

Annual fuel-oil savings	Insulating the ceiling of an average 6-room house (gallons of fuel oil)	Storm windows for an average 6-room house (gallons of fuel oil)
Portland, Maine	150 to 180	110
Boston, Mass	90 to 150	90
New York, N. Y	90 to 130	80
Washington, D. C	70 to 120	70

Save more heat in these ways.—Close off rooms not needed for living space. Don't try to heat bedrooms. Use the bathroom as a dressing room in cold weather. Be sure to drain radiators in closed rooms during severe weather to prevent them from freezing. Heating sun porches and garages is a luxury we can't afford in wartime. Close bedroom doors at night. Cold air leaking under bedroom doors may cool off the downstairs rooms unless you put a rug or towel against the bottom of the door. If your fireplace has a damper, keep it closed when the fireplace is not in use; otherwise the heat from the house will go up the chimney. Blocking the flue with paper will do in the absence of a damper.

You can improve radiator efficiency by painting over gold or silver paint with oil paint of a light color, to match walls or wood work. Placing a reflector behind each radiator next to outside walls prevents heat loss to the outside, keeps the heat in the room. (It's easy to make a good reflector by painting a piece of cardboard or wallboard with gloss or metallic paint.) Also, unless trapped air in steam and hot-water radiators is released, only part of the radiators will get hot. It is a simple matter to "bleed" a steam or hot-water radiator to get this trapped air out, through the valves provided for this purpose.

Last of all, but very important, dress warmly. Heavier clothing for you and the children makes cooler room temperatures more comfortable. In the days of our ancestors, they, like the Indians, relied on open fires for all of their heat. Many a bomb-blasted house in countries of our Allies lacks even the comfort of an open fireplace. This thought may not make you warmer next winter, but we in America are a lot better off than any of our Allies.

Auxiliary heat.—Heating stoves that burn coal or wood have become popular again. If, in spite of all these conservation measures, your house is too cool for comfort, you may secure ample warmth from a parlor stove set up in your living room. As a wartime measure, OPA has arranged for the release of many stoves for home-heating uses. Your Local Board can tell you how and where to get such stoves.

78 Brooklyn Avenue

CONSUMER FUEL OIL RATION RECORD

Keep It Carefully

Know what your fuel oil situation is at all times. Use the information on the delivery ticket left by your oil truck driver for this record. Check your tank at frequent intervals and estimate your actual oil consumption.

TOTAL RATION
Gallons 1645
Starting inventory .....

WATCH THESE FIGURES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Date	Gallons delivered	Total delivered plus starting inventory	Gallons now in tank	Total oil consumed. Column 3 less Column 4	Percentage of ration used. Divide Column 5 by total ration plus inventory	Percentage of normal heating season elapsed to date

REMARKS:

To determine the percent of your oil ration used up to any date, measure amount of oil in tank. Deduct this amount from column three (3), and divide the resulting figure by the amount of total ration plus the starting inventory.

Compare this to the percentage of the elapsed normal heating season as an approximate guide to the proper use of your fuel oil ration.

Consult the weather data in your local newspaper for daily record of elapsed normal heating season.

WARNING:

Column six (6) should be less than column seven (7) especially during the fall months to provide a cushion for the colder winter months.

NAME OF DEALER: _____

16

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943

A