



Heating Cost Concerns Boiling Temperatures

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Home Heating Oil and Gas prices are at record levels and landlords of buildings with rent stabilized tenants (my apartment included!) are threatening to cut heating this winter unless they get some kind of rebate. In the [Daily News](#) today, you can see temperatures rising quickly long before the cold of winter sets in:

Landlords are warning they may not be able to provide heat for the city's 1.1 million rent-stabilized apartments unless they get a break on oil costs.

Building owners are expected to rally on the steps of City Hall today and demand that lawmakers suspend taxes on home heating oil to help offset the skyrocketing prices.

"Anything short of legislative intervention and we could face unprecedented numbers of tenants consistently without heat this winter - not because owners would ignore their obligation, but because they would be unable to afford heating oil costs," said Joe Strasburg, president of the Rent Stabilization Association, which represents about 25,000 landlords.

But city housing officials said they will go after landlords who do not provide heat for their tenants, regardless of the cause.

"Landlords have a legal responsibility to provide adequate heat," said Carol Abrams, a spokeswoman for the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

"If a landlord can't or won't provide adequate heat, the city will step in to restore heat to the tenants," she added. "We do take every landlord who gets a heat violation to housing court."



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