

WATER HEATING

Water heating can account for 14% – 25% of the energy consumed in the home.

Here are some tips to save money and energy while heating water.

- Check and fix water leaks
 - If, in a colder month (like January or February) water use for a family of 4 exceeds 12,000 gallons; then there are definitely serious leaks.
 - Check for leaks in pipes :
Turn off all water-using appliances inside and outside the house, including the sprinkler / drip irrigation system and check the meter. If there is any change in the reading, there is a leak in the system.
 - Check for a leaky toilet: Flush the toilet and add some food coloring in the toilet tank while it is still filling up. If there is any coloring in the bowl 15-20 minutes after it fills up, there is a leak and the flapper valve needs to be replaced.
- Install low-flow shower heads (rated <2.5 gallons per minute) and faucet aerators (rated <2.2 gallons per minute for kitchen and 1.5 – 0.5 gallons per minute for bathrooms)

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT WATER HEATER

Choosing the right water heater will help save money on water and energy bills and save energy. It is important to know the types of water heaters that are available and the criteria to consider before making a decision on what water heater to buy.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Fuel type, availability and cost** : The energy source used for water heating will affect the water heater's annual operation costs.
- **Size**: The water heater needs to be sized based on the size of the household and hot water demands.
- **Energy efficiency**: Make sure the water heater has the energy star label
- **Annual operating costs**: Estimate the annual operating costs of the water heater and compare it with other models to choose what is best for your needs.

TYPES OF WATER HEATERS AVAILABLE

- **Conventional storage water heaters**: These water heaters store hot water in tanks to be released when the tap is turned on. Water is constantly heated in the tank to maintain the temperature, leading to heat loss.

- **Demand (tankless) water heaters:** Demand or tankless water heaters provide hot water only when it is needed, therefore reducing standby energy loss.
- **Heat pump water heaters:** They work like a refrigerator in reverse to move heat from one place to another instead of generating heat directly. In doing this they are 2-3 times more energy efficient than conventional storage water heaters.
- **Solar water heaters:** They use solar energy to heat water.
- **Tankless coil and indirect water heaters:** These systems use the space heating system of the home to heat water. They are a part of integrated or combination water and space heating systems.

For more information, see energysavers.gov