



Tip of the Month: Water Heating Savers

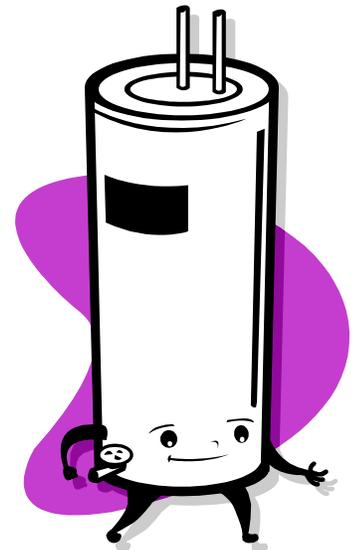
Water heating is the second largest energy expense in your home. It typically accounts for about 18% of your utility bill.

There are four ways to cut your water heating bills:

1. use less hot water
2. turn down the thermostat on your water heater
3. insulate your water heater
4. buy a new, more efficient model

Additional Water / Energy Saving Ideas...

- ❖ Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads.
- ❖ Repair leaky faucets promptly; a leaky faucet wastes gallons of water in a short period of time.
- ❖ Set the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees F to get comfortable hot water for most uses (for young children and the elderly, the recommended temperature setting is 105 degrees F).
- ❖ Insulate your electric hot-water storage tank but be careful not to cover the thermostat. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- ❖ Insulate your natural gas or oil hot-water storage tank but be careful not to cover the water heater's top, bottom, thermostat, or burner compartment. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations; when in doubt, get professional help.
- ❖ Insulate the first 6 feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater.
- ❖ If you are in the market for a new dishwasher or clothes washer, consider buying an efficient, water-saving ENERGY STAR® model to reduce hot water use.
- ❖ Install heat traps on the hot and cold pipes at the water heater to prevent heat loss. Most new water heaters have built-in heat traps.
- ❖ Pressure relief valves should be checked annually because of sediment getting into the valves making it inoperable and too much pressure building up in the water heater causing it to explode.
- ❖ Drain a quart of water from your water tank every 3 months to remove sediment that impedes heat transfer and lowers the efficiency of your heater. Follow the manufacturer's directions.



Although most water heaters last 10-15 years, it's best to start shopping now for a new one if yours is more than 7 years old. Doing some research before your heater fails will enable you to select one that most appropriately meets your needs.