

IN THE BATHROOM AND KITCHEN

Install low-flow showerheads. Choose one that flows at a rate of less than 2.5 gallons per minute. Using a regular showerheads, a family of four can use 700 gallons of water per week if each person takes a daily five-minute shower. That is enough water to supply one person with drinking water for three years. Low-flow showerheads and faucets can cut your hot water use in half—without any change in comfort – saving 14,000 gallons of water per year, plus the energy required to heat that water.

Install low-flow faucets. New kitchen faucets typically come with aerators that limit their flow to 2.2 gallons per minute. New bathroom faucets have a lower flow, of between half a gallon and 1.5 gallons per minute. To maximize efficiency, choose one with a flow rate of 1 gallon per minute or less.

LOW – FLOW SHOWERHEAD



Replacing a conventional showerhead with a low-flow model is usually a very quick and simple job. With a variety of adapters readily available, they can be fitted to most standard shower arms, including the swivel type.

{ For more information

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy www.aceee.org

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy www.eere.energy.gov

Energy Star, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.energystar.gov

This brochure is a product of Project Energy Savers www.projectenergysavers.org

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WATER HEATING & WATER SAVING

Water is a key resource in your home – and one you pay twice for. You pay to heat it and you pay to use it. An average family spends between 10 and 25 percent of their utility bill on simply heating up water. Making minor adjustments to the temperature and amount of water you use will save your family money on two bills: the water bill and the energy bill.

The first step to saving money on heating water is turning down the temperature on your water heater. Most water heaters are automatically programmed to heat water to 140 degrees. But in most homes, 120 degrees is more than enough. The change also prevents you from scalding yourself and slows mineral buildup and corrosion in pipes and water heater.

BASIC TIPS

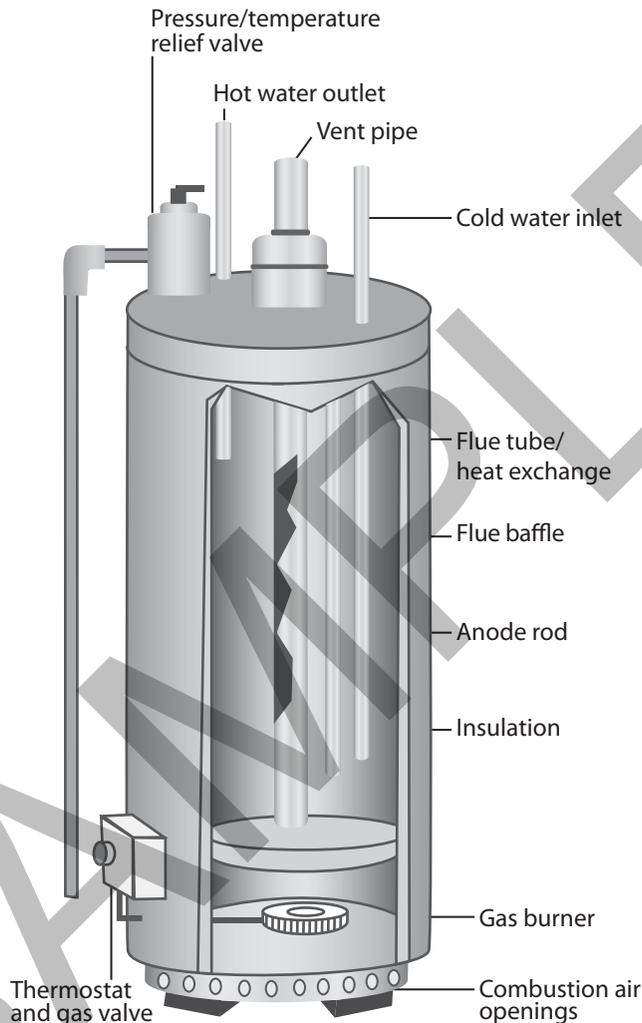
INSULATING THE HOT WATER TANK

Insulation is very important to your water heater's efficiency. Some water tanks are insulated. Like the insulation that goes into your walls, this insulation has an R-value. The R-value should be at least R-24. If it is not, your tank can benefit from additional insulation, which may reduce the standby heat losses by 25 % to 45 %. If you don't know the R-value of your water heater's tank, just touch it. If it feels warm, it needs more insulation.

It's simple to add insulation to an electric storage water heater.

You can find insulation jackets or blankets that are pre-cut to fit your water heater's tank. They cost between \$10 and \$20, and you should choose one with an insulating value of at least R-8. Adding insulation to the tank of a gas – or oil-powered storage water heater is more difficult. It is best to have a plumbing and heating contractor add insulation to these systems.

STORAGE WATER HEATER



INSULATE WATER

The pipes that deliver water all over your house should be well-insulated, especially at the point where they connect with the water heater. Insulated pipes can reduce heat loss and raise your water temperature between 2 and 4 degrees, compared with uninsulated pipes.

On gas water heaters, insulation should be kept at least 6 inches away from the flue – for safety reasons. If the pipes are within 8 inches of the flue, the safest choice is to use fiberglass pipe-wrap that is at least 1 inch thick without a facing. Use either wire or aluminum foil tape to secure it to the pipe.

REPAIR LEAKS IMMEDIATELY

Make sure to check every leaky place in the house, including pipes, hoses, couplings and even the toilet. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month. A leaky toilet can waste more than 52,000 gallons of water a year.

INSTALL HEAT TRAPS

Heat traps save energy by preventing heat loss through the inlet and outlet pipes of a storage water heater tank. The heat traps cost roughly \$30, but their installation usually costs more. Installing heat traps requires soldering a pipe joint, so it is best done when you have the system installed or when you already have a technician out to work on your water heater. The addition can save you between \$15 and \$30 on your water heating bill. Many new water heaters come with a heat trap already installed.

INSTALL A TIMER

You can save an additional 5%–12% on your energy bill by installing a timer that turns off the water heater at night or during your utility's peak demand times, when energy often costs more. It's possible to install one yourself. Timers cost \$60 or more but pay for themselves in about a year.