



WATER HEATERS

DECREASE YOUR EXPENSES AND INCREASE SATISFACTION

ENERGY STAR® estimates water heating is the second largest household energy expense after heating and cooling, costing the average household \$400-\$600 annually.

Selecting the right water heater

If your water heater is more than 20 years old, it may be time to consider purchasing a new, high-efficiency model. An efficient model can help lower water heating expenses up to 35 percent. Understanding the different water heaters available is important in selecting the right one for your home.

Tank storage water heaters

Tank water heaters are available in electric or gas models. They contain an internal heating element that heats water to the temperature indicated on the thermostat and continuously heats the water throughout the day, whether or not it is being used. The internal element in a gas water heater is similar to a gas stove; therefore, gas water heaters must have adequate exhaust ventilation to ensure safety.

Tankless water heaters

Tankless models do not store heated water and can be installed inside or outside. Also called on-demand water heaters, they heat

water as it passes through a heat exchanger, providing a continuous flow of hot water. These units are highly efficient because they do not waste energy heating a tank of water when it's not in use.

Solar water heating systems

Solar water heating systems pre-heat your water with energy from the sun so your existing water heater works less. Pre-heated water feeds into your gas or electric water heater, which uses very little energy to increase the water temperature to your set point. These systems work in any climate and are paired with your existing water heater, which can be either a tank or tankless model.

Energy Trust can help

To begin work, contact an Energy Trust trade ally contractor to discuss and schedule installation. Energy Trust trade ally contractors are licensed and insured, and trained on the latest energy-efficiency standards and cash incentives from Energy Trust. Your contractor can help you complete the forms needed to receive Energy Trust cash incentives, plus state and federal tax credits.



CASH INCENTIVES

Energy Trust of Oregon offers cash incentives for conventional electric and gas water heaters, tankless gas units and solar water heating systems that meet select energy-efficiency requirements. You can lower your costs further by combining Energy Trust incentives with available state and federal tax credits.

What should I know about water heaters?

Benefits of high-efficiency water heaters

High-efficiency water heaters can cut your water heating costs, save energy and help protect the environment.

- High-efficiency conventional water heaters can save up to 10 percent on water heating costs.
- Tankless gas water heaters can save up to 35 percent on water heating costs, reducing your annual gas costs by approximately \$100.
- Solar water heating systems can decrease your water heating costs by up to 70 percent, reducing your annual energy costs by an average of \$254.

Efficiency ratings

Understanding the energy-efficiency ratings of each model is essential to choosing a water heating system that best suits your household.

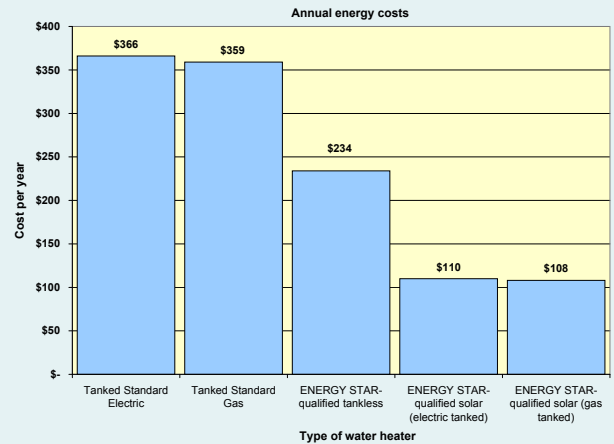
- **Energy Factor (EF)**—Compares the amount of energy that leaves the tank to the amount of energy required to heat the water in the tank. A higher EF indicates your tank will use less energy to heat the water for your home. Energy Trust requires electric, gas and tankless water heaters meet certain EF measurements to qualify for cash incentives.
- **First-Hour Rating (FHR)**—Indicates the amount of water your tank can provide during a one-hour period of heavy use (such as weekday mornings). A higher FHR means your water heater will perform better during high-use hours than a larger gallon tank with a lower FHR.
- **Gallons per minute (GPM)**—Describes the number of gallons of hot water produced per minute and is used to rate the efficiency of tankless units. Before purchasing this type of unit, analyze your hot water habits. If your household tends to use more than one hot water source at a time, look for a unit with a larger GPM.



For more information on Energy Trust cash incentives and to find a contractor, visit www.energytrust.org or call **1.866.368.7878**.

WATER HEATER TIP

Water heaters can save your family up to 35 percent on annual water heating costs, depending on the type of model purchased. You can save up to 70 percent by installing a solar water heating system.



An average Oregon household's annual energy costs, based on the type of energy-efficient water heater installed in the home, as compared to a conventional water heater. Your actual savings will vary, based on energy-efficiency ratings, water-use habits, family size and living patterns.