



Water Heating

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Water heating accounts for almost a third of household energy use and costs up to \$550 a year. By simply lowering your thermostat or purchasing a more efficient system you can save hundreds in electricity bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, without compromising your lifestyle.

Invest in a solar hot water system

Investing in a solar hot water system can reduce water heating costs by 75%, particularly if you are replacing an electric storage system.

Solar technology uses heat energy from the sun to warm water directly or to warm a fluid that transfers heat to water in a holding tank. Solar panels are mounted on the roof and are best positioned facing north.

With over 300 days of sunshine in Perth every year, solar hot water systems are a reliable option for water heating. They are fitted with a gas, electric or solid fuel booster to ensure they provide hot water all year round.

Solar Credits provide a subsidy for eligible solar water heating, solar PV, wind and hydro electricity systems. Suppliers will typically do all the paperwork to claim the Solar Credits and simply deduct the subsidy from the purchase price of the system.

For more information on Solar Credits visit the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website:

www.climatechange.gov.au

Change your thermostat

If you're not ready to upgrade to a solar hot water system, you can still reduce your water heating energy use by lowering your thermostat. Here's how:

- Find the dial located at the base of the tank – you may have to lift up a cover. Always follow safety instructions to avoid injury.
- Turn the dial back so the temperature is just over 60°C. This minimum temperature is recommended for health reasons.
- Instantaneous hot water systems can be set to 50°C. This can be adjusted by using either a manual control inside the unit or an electronic controller elsewhere in the home.
- If your dial does not have temperature measurements, simply run a hot water tap into a bucket and test with a thermometer.
- If your water heater has no control panel you may need to contact a licensed plumber or electrician to change the preset temperature.
- Always check the manufacturer's manual before changing any settings.

Remember, if you are going on holiday, turn the thermostat all the way down or turn the system off completely.

Insulate water pipes

Heat is lost when hot water travels from your heating system to your kitchen, laundry and bathroom. Heat loss can be reduced by insulating copper water pipes. Pipe insulation can be purchased from hardware stores and is low cost and easy to install.

Use hot water efficiently

Reduce your water heating costs and energy consumption by using hot water efficiently around the home. More than half of household hot water use is in the bathroom, a third in the laundry and the remainder in the kitchen.

- The shower uses the most hot water in the home. Install a water saving showerhead and take 4 minute (or less) showers.
- Install water saving tap fittings.
- Wash clothes in cool water.
- Ensure washing machine and dishwasher loads are full.
- Fill the sink rather than washing dishes under a running hot tap.

When designing a new home or extension, minimise heat loss by locating wet areas close to the water heater. Hot water loses heat as it travels through pipes. This loss accounts for up to 30% of the energy used to heat water.

