



Energy Blog

Water Savings Tips for the New Year & All About Water Heating (page 1 of 6)

The holidays have come to a close. You've likely packed away the last of the seasonal decor, maybe returned or exchanged a few gifts. Now is the best time to start anew, clear out the old, and start developing some good habits for the new year. This is a good time to evaluate your current water usage and water heating and see how you can make some small changes to lower your consumption--and save money on utility bills!

1. Take shorter showers - we know it's still chilly out. But the quicker your shower, the faster you can get back in to cozy warm clothing. Shorter showers also mean less water to heat!
2. Wash your clothes with cold instead of hot water - it's still getting clean! and there will be less shrinkage for your clothes that are made of natural fibers like cotton, silk, wool, linen and hemp.
3. Waste less hot water - you can waste even less hot water by making sure fixing leaks and insulating your hot water lines
4. Install low-flow faucet fixtures - to reduce your water flow
5. Turn down the thermostat on your water heater
6. Insulate your water heater and pipes
7. Buy a new, more efficient model or type of water heater

To learn more about water heating, check out these infographics from [Energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov):

Fri, Jan 5, 2024

Water Savings Tips for the New Year & All About Water Heating continued
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ENERGY SAVER 101

Everything you need to know about

WATER HEATERS



64 GALLONS

The amount of water used
by the average household
EACH DAY

\$400-600

The amount of money the
average household spends on
water heating **EACH YEAR**

Water heating is the
2ND LARGEST
expense in your home, accounting
for **14-18%** of your utility bills

Water Savings Tips for the New Year & All About Water Heating continued (page 3 of 6)

TYPES OF WATER HEATERS

STORAGE	TANKLESS	HEAT PUMP	SOLAR	TANKLESS COIL & INDIRECT
COST \$	COST \$\$	COST \$\$	COST \$\$\$	COST \$\$
LIFE EXPECTANCY 10-15 years	LIFE EXPECTANCY 20+ years	LIFE EXPECTANCY 10-15 years	LIFE EXPECTANCY About 20 years	LIFE EXPECTANCY 10-11 years
PRO Lower purchase cost	PRO Provides a constant supply of hot water, and is 8-34 percent more energy efficient than a storage water heater. Depending on the amount of hot water your home uses daily, you could save at least \$100 a year.	PRO 2-3 times more energy efficient than a storage water heater and lower operating costs. Energy Star heat pump water heaters can save homeowners almost \$300 a year on their electric bills	PRO 50 percent more efficient than gas or electric water heaters	PRO Lower installation and maintenance costs
CON Standby heat loss – energy can be wasted to keep the water in the tank heated to the set temperature.	CON Limited flow rate of hot water means simultaneous, multiple uses of hot water can stretch a tankless water heater to its limit, and some times the energy savings don't pay for the cost of purchase and installation.	CON Performance is dependent on the installation location, and heat pump water heaters exhaust cold air -- increasing the load on space conditioning appliances during heating months.	CON Solar water heaters may require a backup system for cloudy days and times of high demand.	CON Inefficient choice for many homes, especially for those in warmer climates.
SOLUTION Look for an insulated tank to reduce heat losses and lower operating costs.	SOLUTION Install two or more tankless water heaters connected in parallel or separate ones for appliances that use a lot of hot water.	SOLUTION Switching the heat pump water heater to regular resistance mode will stop cold air exhaust but also reduce the appliance's efficiency.	SOLUTION Make sure you buy a solar water heating system that includes a storage water heater as part of the system package.	

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About 27 million households in the U.S. have a water heater that's more than **10 YEARS OLD.**

DID YOU KNOW?

An average water heater lasts about 10-15 years, and when it fails, it can leave you in a mess.

DO YOUR RESEARCH EARLY to find one that best fits your needs.

CHOOSING YOUR WATER HEATER

Don't get caught in hot water! This decision tree will help you determine what type of water heater is best for you.

FUEL TYPE

It is important to compare fuel costs if you have more than one option available. You may find that you will save more money in the long run if you use a different fuel source.

ELECTRICITY **FUEL OIL** **GEO THERMAL ENERGY** **NATURAL GAS** **PROPANE** **SOLAR ENERGY**

STORAGE **TANKLESS** **HEAT PUMP** **TANKLESS COIL & INDIRECT** **SOLAR**

Water Savings Tips for the New Year & All About Water Heating continued (page 5 of 6)

YOU SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER:

EFFICIENCY

To maximize energy and operating cost savings, look for an energy-efficient water heater. A water heater's efficiency is determined by a water heater's **ENERGY FACTOR (EF)**. Based on the amount of hot water produced per unit of fuel consumed, an energy factor includes:

RECOVERY EFFICIENCY

How efficiently the heat from the fuel is transferred to the water.

STANDBY LOSSES

The percentage of the heat loss per hour from the stored water compared to the water's heat.

CYCLING LOSSES

The loss of heat as water circulates through a tank or pipes.

COST

When buying a water heater, it is important to not only look at the purchase cost, but also the installation, operating and maintenance costs to determine if it is worth investing in a more efficient water heating system.

SIZE

To ensure you will have enough hot water when you want to use it, calculate your household's peak-hour hot water demand and use that to determine your water heater size.

WATER HEATER MAINTENANCE

Periodic maintenance can extend the life of your water heater and minimize efficiency loss.

If you have a storage water heater, be sure to **FLUSH A QUART OF WATER** from the tank every three months and **CHECK THE TEMPERATURE** and pressure valve every six months.

To extend the life of storage water heaters, **REPLACE ANODE RODS** -- replacement frequency depends on the water heater and whether you have soft or hard water.

Regular maintenance on simple solar water heater systems can be as infrequent as every 3-5 years and should be done by a **SOLAR CONTRACTOR**.

TAX CREDITS & REBATES

SAVE 30 PERCENT of the cost, including installation and labor costs, of a solar water heater by taking advantage of the federal tax credit that is good until December 31, 2016.

SAVE UP TO \$300 on gas, oil & propane storage and tankless water heaters. In order to qualify for the federal tax credit, the water heater must have an energy factor of at least 0.82 and be installed by December 31, 2013.

Interested in installing a heat pump water heater? You could qualify for a **\$300 FEDERAL TAX CREDIT**.


Be sure **TO CHECK FOR LOCAL REBATES** and tax credits for energy-efficient water heaters

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TIPS FOR REDUCING YOUR WATER HEATING BILLS




USE LESS
hot water.




Buy a more efficient model or consider installing a **SOLAR WATER HEATER**.

Turn down your water heater's **THERMOSTAT**.



FIX LEAKS:
A leak of one drop per second can cost \$1 a month.



Install **LOW-FLOW FAUCETS AND SHOWERHEADS**.

Low-flow fixtures cost about \$10-20 a piece and achieve water savings of **25-60 PERCENT**.

Purchase **ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES**, such as dishwashers and clothes washers.

Wash your clothes in **COLD WATER**.

Set water heater thermostat to **120 DEGREES F**.

Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for ways to **INSULATE YOUR WATER HEATER** tank and pipes.

SOURCES: Energy Saver (www.energy.gov/energysaver) and Energy Star (www.energystar.gov)

 energy.gov



Energy Blog

Southern California Edison Rebates & Incentives



There are several rebate programs from Southern California Edison (SCE) that can help customers prepare for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and assist them during PSPS activations.

Portable Power Station & Generator Rebates for Customers in High Fire Risk Areas: This program provides customers with rebates to help buy down the cost of a portable backup battery or portable generator. Customers who live in a Tier 2 or 3 high fire risk area can receive a \$150 rebate on qualifying portable power stations or a \$200 rebate on qualifying portable generators. Customers enrolled in CARE, FERA or the Medical Baseline Allowance program may receive a \$600 rebate on qualifying portable generators. Learn more at marketplace.sce.com.

Battery Storage/ Generation Rebate for All SCE Customers: The Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) provides cash incentives for battery storage or generation equipment. Learn more at sce.com/sgip.

Source: [Southern California Edison](https://www.sce.com)

Fri, Jan 12, 2024

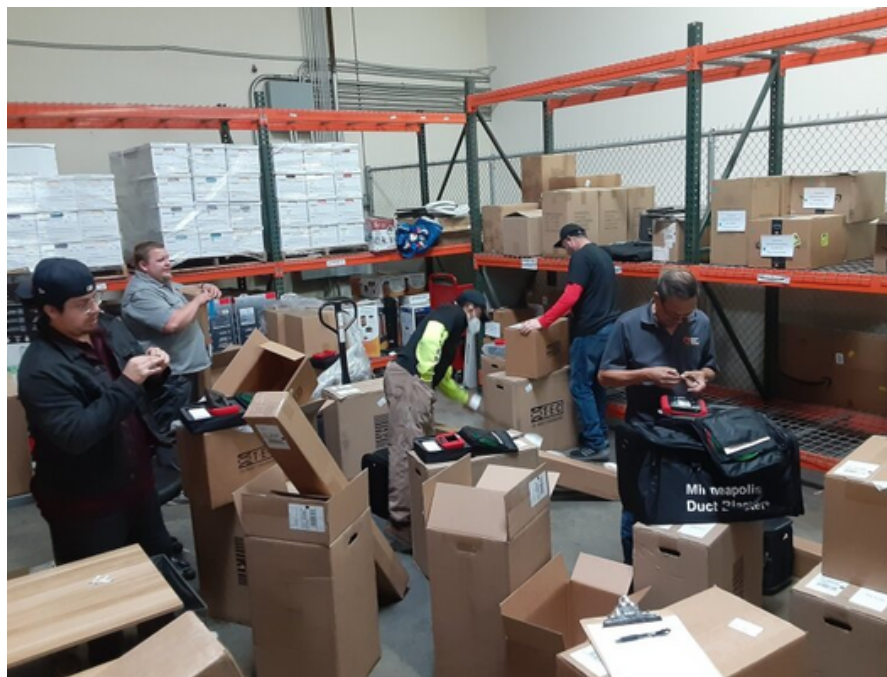


Energy Blog

New Equipment Alert

Our Weatherization team just received a shipment of new weatherization tools! This is our first lot of diagnostic test equipment that we've purchased since 2008. The lot includes blower doors, duct blasters, manometers (instruments used to measure pressure) and combustion analyzers. These diagnostic tools should last us through the next decade.

We are keeping our older diagnostic testing tools as they still work and are perfectly usable; they just do not have the updated technology that the new models have. We will store the older equipment and have them for backup.



Fri, Jan 19, 2024



Energy Blog

It Pays to Drive Electric (page 1 of 2)



There are many practical reasons to forgo your gas vehicle and drive electric--lower fuel and maintenance costs, better acceleration and handling, a smooth and quiet ride, new technology, safety features, efficient over the air (OTA) updates, and vehicle-to-grid power supply to name a few. But there are more crucial justifications when it comes to your personal health and the health of the environment.

According to the American Lung Association's "Each Breath" blog, gas vehicles are terrible for air pollution and can adversely affect our health.

"Cars, trucks and other forms of transportation are one of the biggest producers of air pollution in our country. Emissions from the transportation

Fri, Jan 26, 2024

It Pays to Drive Electric... continued (Page 2 of 2)

sector significantly contribute to ground-level ozone pollution (also called smog) and particle pollution, both of which are very harmful to health, and can even be deadly. Cars and trucks also emit carbon dioxide, which is one of the greenhouse gases responsible for driving climate change.

Further compounding the issue, climate change makes air quality worse, as warmer temperatures lead to greater formation of ozone pollution, and more frequent and intense wildfires result in more particle pollution. The 2020 “[State of the Air](#)” report found that nearly half of U.S. residents are breathing unhealthy air. We need to clean up our dirty cars, trucks and buses if we are going to continue to make improvements to our air quality” ([Lung.org](#)).

Southern California Edison customers: You could qualify for an electric vehicle rebate when you purchase or lease a new or pre-owned EV. Check your eligibility with the links below:

[Pre-Owned EV Rebate](#) - \$1,000 or \$4,000 rebate options are available within 180 days after the purchase or lease of a pre-owned EV. Amount based on income eligibility.

Explore [EV Rebates & Incentives](#)