



## Put Your Water Heater On An Energy Diet

*Water heaters account for 17% of the energy used by the average household, heating water for showers, baths, washing machines and dishwashers. Some hot water heaters may be more energy efficient than others. Boost the energy efficiency of your hot water system by doing these simple actions.*

### **LOWER THE WATER TEMPERATURE SETTING**

Reduce your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees or to the low to medium setting. If you use a dishwasher without a built-in heating unit, 140 degrees is recommended (refer to your owner's manual). Each 10 degree reduction will save 3% to 5% on your water heating costs.

### **INSULATE YOUR WATER HEATER AND PIPES**

Reduce your water heating costs up to 10% by installing a water heater insulation blanket properly around the water tank. Newer water heaters may not require a blanket; check your owner's manual for details. Also, insulate all exposed hot water lines with at least ¾ inch thick insulation to increase the temperature at the faucet by 2 to 4 degrees and reduce heat loss through the pipes.

### **DRAIN THE SEDIMENT FROM THE TANK**

Drain at least one quart of water from your hot water tank every 3 months to remove sediment. This increases the unit's life and improves its efficiency.

### **INSTALL WATER-SAVING SHOWERHEADS AND FAUCET AERATORS**

Save up to 50% on your hot water costs and reduce water waste by installing high efficiency showerheads and faucet aerators.

*If you plan on purchasing a new gas water heater, look for a model with an efficiency rating of 60 or greater, for the best energy savings. Contact the City's Development Center at: 650-617-3118 for permit information.*



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