Help Me Pick a Water Heater!

Flowchart

Members of the E Source Technology Assessment, Energy Managers’ Network, and Energy Market Advisory Services are welcome to share this chart with their customers.

What fuel type will you use?

Electricity

- Is a complex installation OK?
  - No
  - How about $1,000 extra to halve your energy consumption?
    - No
    - Do you live in a warm climate?
      - No
      - Can you install your water heater in an unconditioned space (like a basement or garage)?
        - No
        - High-efficiency electric storage water heater
          - Estimated annual energy savings: 235 kWh
    - Yes
      - Solar water heater with electric storage backup
        - Estimated annual energy savings: 2,428 kWh
  - Yes
    - Are you willing to pay an extra $2,500 to halve your water heater energy consumption and double the water heater's life span?
      - Yes
        - Tankless gas water heater
          - Estimated annual energy savings: 78 therms
      - No
        - Condensing gas storage water heater
          - Estimated annual energy savings: 74 therms

Gas

- Do you often take long showers or Jacuzzi baths with lots of hot water?
  - No
  - Are you willing to pay an extra $2,300 to halve your water heater energy consumption and double the water heater’s life span?
    - Yes
      - Solar water heater with gas storage backup
        - Estimated annual energy savings: 130 therms
    - No
      - High-efficiency gas storage water heater
        - Estimated annual energy savings: 37 therms
  - Yes
    - How about $1,000 extra to reduce hot water energy consumption by more than 30 percent?
      - Yes
        - Tankless gas water heater
          - Estimated annual energy savings: 78 therms
      - No
        - Condensing gas storage water heater
          - Estimated annual energy savings: 74 therms

Notes: kWh = kilowatt-hour. Cost estimates referenced are representative of available 50-gallon (or equivalent) water heaters. Utility incentives may adjust relative incremental costs. Estimated annual energy savings are relative to a storage water heater at minimum federal efficiency standards.