

Propane Water Heaters: Hot Savings for Homebuyers

Every year, homebuilders construct thousands of homes, each one designed to meet strict codes and specifications, while still balancing the needs and desires of prospective homebuyers. The ultimate goal is to build a quality home that ensures a customer's ongoing satisfaction. However, every homebuyer is different – some favor finished basements, others prefer front porches. One thing that nearly every homeowner likes is saving money.



According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 20 percent of a home's annual energy cost is spent heating water. It is crucial to provide customers with the most energy-efficient water heater available.

Homebuilders and plumbers can save their customers a lot of money by choosing and recommending propane water heaters. In fact, propane water heaters cost a third less to operate than electric models and heat water nearly twice as fast. Also, if space is a factor

when selecting appliances for a home, consider that a 50-gallon propane water heater can provide as much hot water as a 66- to 80-gallon electric unit in a 2 ½ bath home. And there are now a wide variety of venting options that make a propane water heater a possibility in any home.

On average, homeowners use more of their hot water (37 percent) taking showers than anything else. And everyone knows that if you don't have an efficient water heater, you might get stuck with a cold shower

in the morning. The fast heating power of propane will keep showers hot—storage tanks heated with propane refill with hot water in about half the time of those heated with electricity.

Propane, the exceptional energy, provides hot water quickly, and at an annual savings that your customers will thank you for. For more information, or to find a propane retailer near you, go to www.usepropane.com.

Propane vs. Electric Water Heaters

- Propane water heaters can cost one third less to operate than electric water heaters. (*Gas Appliance Manufacturers Assoc./Intertek Testing Services, 4/2003*)
- Propane water heaters recover hot water nearly twice as quickly as electric water heaters. (*Gas Appliance Manufacturers Assoc./Intertek Testing Services, 4/2003*)
- A 50-gallon propane water heater can provide as much hot water as a 66- to 80-gallon electric unit in a 2 ½ bath home. (*Hometips.com, content provided by industry expert Don Vandervort, 2002*)

Tankless Water Heaters

- Tankless water heaters reduce standby energy loss, saving consumers an average of 15-20 percent over a standard storage water heater. (*Energy Outlet™, an energy efficiency community information center based in Eugene, OR, 2002*)
- Most tankless water heaters provide 2 to 3 gallons per minute of hot water. (*Home Energy Saver: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 2002*)
- The expected life span of a tankless water heater is 20 years, twice as long as most storage water heaters. (*Home Energy Saver: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 2002*)

Water Heater Use

- Water Heaters are the second largest energy user in most homes, approximately 20 percent of energy expenditures according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
- On average, showers use 37 percent of a home's hot water; the clothes washer uses 26 percent; the dishwasher uses 14 percent and the remainder is used by tubs and sinks. (*U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 2002*)
- A family of four, each showering five minutes a day, uses 700 gallons of water a week; this is enough for a three-year supply of drinking water for one person. (*U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 2002*)