

Electric Water Heating

Making a choice about how to heat your water? The facts add up in favor of electric water heaters. Compared to other options, electric water heaters are the cleanest and quietest. They're the least expensive to buy and install. That's good news for you. So when all the costs are considered, electric water heating is a smart choice.

Electric water heaters are a smart choice

For years of clean, quiet service at an affordable price

How do the costs compare?

Let's suppose you're comparison-shopping for a new system. What you pay in your monthly oil, propane, or electric bill is just one part of the cost of heating water. You have to look at the price of the heater itself — any finance charges — installation — and annual maintenance. Add it all up, and the costs can look like the table below.

Any other cost considerations?

You should also look at how long your water heater will last — you don't want to replace expensive equipment any sooner than you need to! The Department of Energy estimates that the average electric water heater lasts for a good long 14 years — compared to nine years for gas-fired models. While the useful life of any heater will vary due to lots of different factors, this may be another good reason to go electric!



"I've used an electric water heater for years and years. They're safe, quiet, and they last. I've stayed with electric water heating because it's convenient and reliable. It's been a good choice for me."
— Lawrence J., Sangerville, Maine

Heating water with:	Actual out-of-pocket expenses after 7 years:
Electricity	\$4,757
Oil	\$7,298
Propane	\$6,179

This comparison is based on fuel prices as of (June 2008).

Are there differences between electric water heaters?

Yes, there are. First, there's tank size. You'll want a model that keeps enough hot water flowing to meet your household needs. This chart can help you figure that out.

Next, there's energy efficiency. The more efficient the water heater, the lower your monthly energy costs. On new heaters, look for the yellow energy guide label for information. Energy efficient models are usually more expensive. But they cost less to run — so they may pay back what you spent and even save you money over time.* CMP's Bundle-Up Kit can also help cut your hot water costs. A Bundle-Up Kit reduces heat loss and makes water flow more efficiently. Call CMP at **1-800-750-4000** for details.

What about installation?

CMP recommends you work with a professional to choose the best location and do the installation. With an electric water heater there are no combustion by-products, no open flames, no need to vent. So your heater can go just about anywhere it will fit. If it's a new installation, you may want to put it closest to the room that uses the most hot water — usually that's the bathroom. The less distance the hot water travels, the more efficient your system will be.

** New federal efficiency standards went into effect in January 2004 making electric water heaters even more efficient.*

Are there safety issues?

Electric water heaters are very safe. But please remember that hot water is **HOT!** To reduce the risk of scalding, the temperature on your water heater should not be set too high. In most instances 120° is a good setting. And, if you are ever doing any work on your water heater, be sure to turn off the breaker first.

The tank size should be big enough to meet your hot water needs at times of peak hot water use. Here are some guidelines for selecting the right size water heater.

People in household	Hot water use	Recommended tank size
1-2	Light	40
	Moderate	40
	Heavy	40
3-4	Light	40
	Moderate	40-50
	Heavy	50
5-6	Light	50
	Moderate	50-80
	Heavy	80
7+	Light	80
	Moderate	80-100
	Heavy	100

If you want to know more, call CMP today!

An electric water heater just might be the smartest choice for your household. If you have any questions about buying, installing, or using an electric water heater, give us a call at

1-800-565-0121 ext. 3041.

We'll be glad to talk with you.