



Cut your water heating bill

Water heating is the third largest energy expense in your home. It typically accounts for about 13 percent of your utility bill. There are four ways to cut your water heating bills: Use less hot water, turn down the thermostat on your water heater, insulate your water heater, or buy a new, more efficient water heater.

- Install aerating, low-flow faucets and shower heads.
- Repair leaky faucets promptly; a leaky faucet wastes gallons of water in a short period of time.
- Lower the thermostat on your water heater; water heaters sometimes come from the factory with high-temperature settings, but a setting of 120 degrees Fahrenheit provides comfortable hot water for most uses.
- Take more showers than baths. Bathing uses the most hot water in the average household.
- Use cold water for laundry -- detergents formulated for cold water get clothes just as clean.
- Insulate your electric hot-water storage tank, but be careful not to cover the thermostat. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Insulate the first 6 feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater.