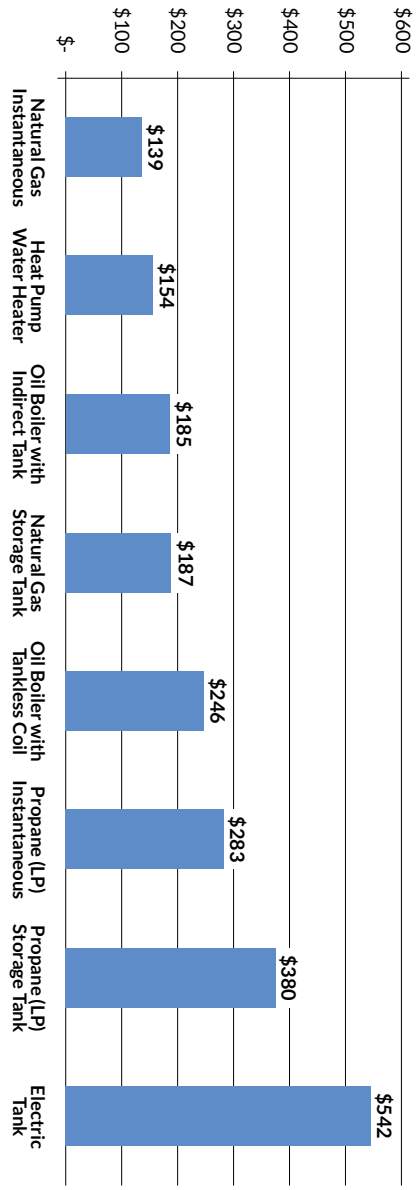
CHOOSING A WATER HEATER

Today, there are more water heating technologies than ever. When comparing options, consider the following:

1. Initial cost, including purchase and installation
2. Lifetime energy costs, which typically far exceed initial costs
3. Warranty, which can be an indicator of product life
4. Capacity, to ensure adequate hot water
5. Space requirements
6. Incentives, including rebates and tax credits

Efficiency Maine offers rebates that can make upgrading to a high-efficiency system more affordable. Find information about rebates and compare water-heating costs online with our interactive tool at efficiencymaine.com.

Chart assumes typical efficiency values and 50 gallons of hot water usage per day. Energy prices updated 12/1/16.



Typical Annual Water Heating Costs

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or call 866-376-2463

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Efficiency Maine

Guide to Water Heating

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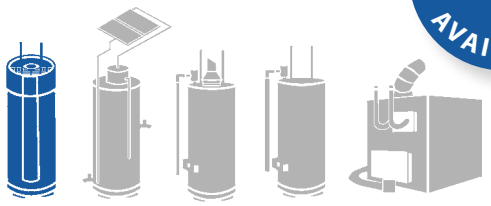
Looking to replace your water heater? Here's some information to help you decide which is best for you.

Here are five common types of water heaters:

1. HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER

REBATE $750 AVAILABLE



Uses heat from the room and/or electricity to heat a tank of water.

Advantages

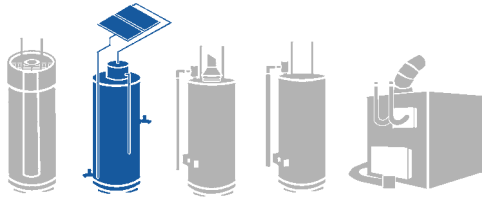
- Can save more than $3,000 over the life of the unit compared to electric water heaters*
- Typically have 10+ year warranties
- Dehumidify the space they are in
- $750 rebate available for qualified systems
- ENERGY STAR® rated

Disadvantages

- Requires open room with 6' or greater ceiling
- Requires condensate drain
- Reduced savings if in heated space
- Air filter needs periodic rinsing
- As loud as a dehumidifier

**Source: energystar.gov sourced 12/1/2016*

2. SOLAR WATER HEATER



Typically panels on roof plumbed to tank in basement with some backup.

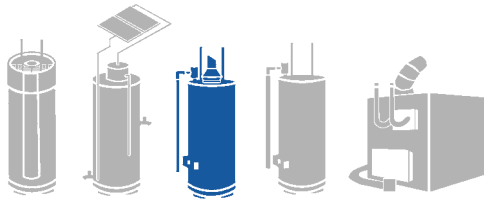
Advantages

- Lowest operating cost
- Tax incentives available
- No combustion
- ENERGY STAR® rated

Disadvantages

- High installation cost
- Requires backup
- Requires solar exposure

3. GAS WATER HEATER



Uses propane or natural gas. Can have a tank or be tankless.

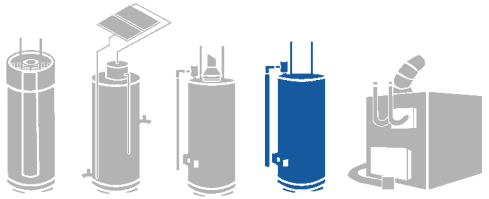
Advantages

- Low operating cost (natural gas models at current rates)
- Endless hot water (tankless models)
- ENERGY STAR® rated

Disadvantages

- Requires exhaust venting
- High operating cost (propane models at current rates)
- May not work with low-flow fixtures (some tankless models)

4. ELECTRIC WATER HEATER



Uses electric resistive elements to heat water.

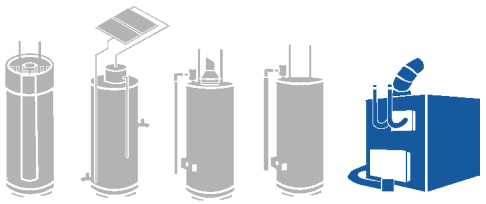
Advantages

- Low upfront cost
- Short "lowboy" versions available
- No combustion

Disadvantages

- High operating cost
- Typically shorter warranties
- May not work with low-flow fixtures (some tankless models)
- Not ENERGY STAR®

5. TANKLESS COIL WATER HEATER



Built into an oil boiler. It has no visible tank.

Advantages

- Lasts as long as the boiler
- Takes up no additional space

Disadvantages

- The least efficient water-heating system
- Boiler must stay hot all year long
- Can cause boiler to "short cycle," which minimizes efficiency
- Not ENERGY STAR®