

CHOOSING A WATER HEATER

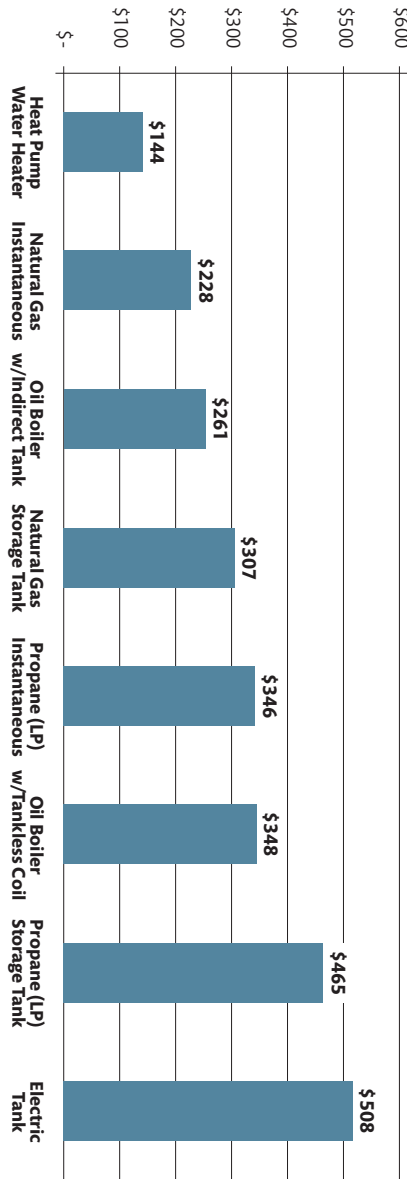
Today, there are more water heating technologies than ever. When comparing options, consider the following:

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 10/11/18.



Typical Annual Water Heating Costs

Efficiency Maine Guide To Water Heating



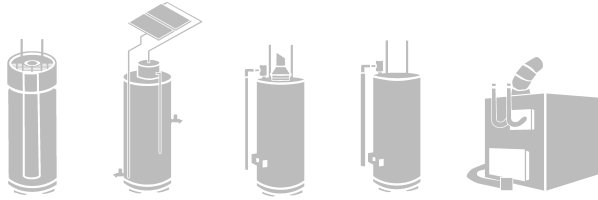
efficiencymaine.com
866-376-2463

As of 12/2018



**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:



**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 mail-in rebate available for qualified systems
- \$750 instant rebate available from participating wholesale distributors (may not be combined with \$750 mail-in rebate)
- 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



**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



**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 short warranties
- May not work with low-flow fixtures (some tankless models)
- Not ENERGY STAR®



**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)



**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®

*Source: energystar.gov sourced 12/6/18