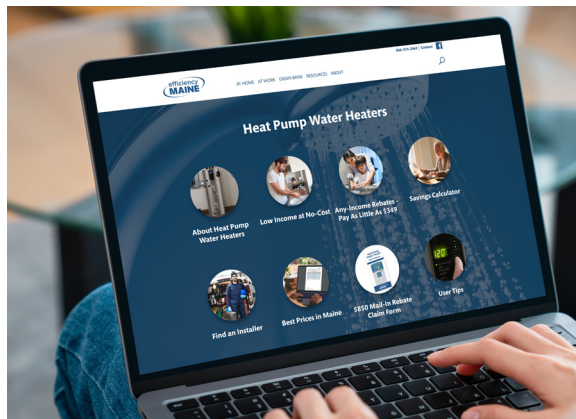


# CHOOSING A WATER HEATER

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](http://efficiencymaine.com).



# Guide To Water Heating



Typical Annual Water Heating Costs

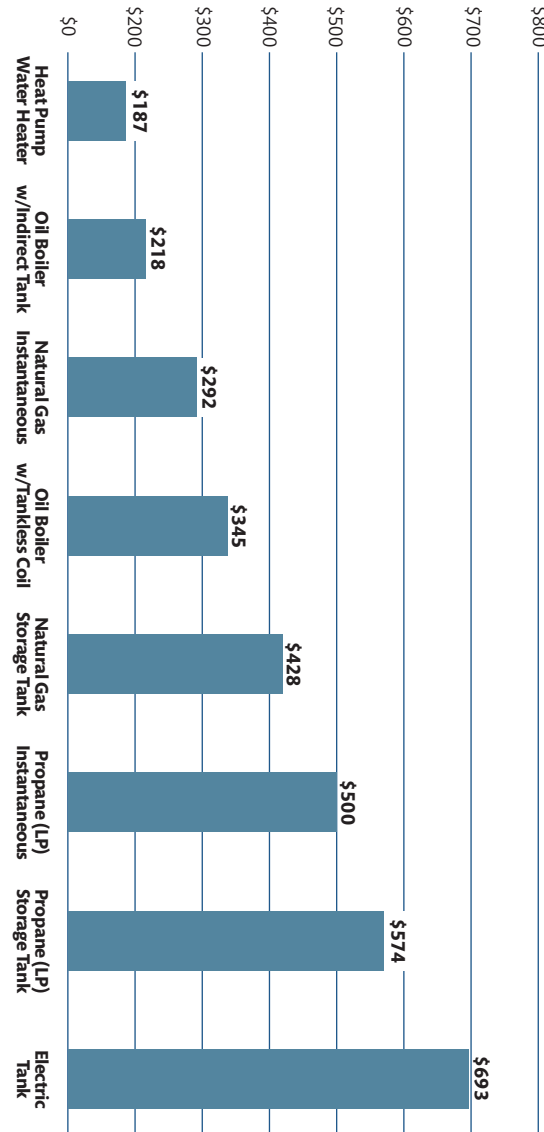


Chart assumes typical efficiency values and 50 gallons of hot water usage per day. Energy prices updated 6/6/2024.



[efficiencymaine.com](http://efficiencymaine.com)  
866-376-2463



**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**

**INCENTIVES  
AVAILABLE**

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

**ADVANTAGES**

- Provides lots of hot water
- Can save more than \$5,000 over the life of the unit compared to electric water heaters\*
- Typically have 10+ year warranties
- Help dehumidify the space they are in
- ENERGY STAR® rated

**DISADVANTAGES**

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

\* Compared to a traditional electric water heater as shown on [Efficiency Maine's Compare Water Heating Costs](#) calculator as of 6/6/2024. Your results may differ.



**SOLAR  
WATER HEATING**

With the decrease in solar electric panel (photovoltaic) prices and improvement of heat pump water heater efficiency, solar water heating is typically done with grid-tied solar electric panels and heat pump water heaters.

**ADVANTAGES**

- Low-cost hot water
- Reduced environmental impact
- No combustion

**DISADVANTAGES**

- High installation cost
- Solar exposure required



**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
- Endless hot water

**DISADVANTAGES**

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