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.
**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>ADVANTAGES</th>
<th>DISADVANTAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TANKLESS COIL WATER HEATER</td>
<td>Low-cost hot water</td>
<td>Requires exhaust venting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduced environmental impact</td>
<td>High operating cost</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No combustion</td>
<td>Typically short warranties</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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)

**HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER**

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

**ADVANTAGES**

- Provide lots of hot water
- Can save more than $3,000 over the life of the unit compared to electric water heaters* 
- Typically have 10+ year warranties
- Help dehumidify the space they are in
- $750 mail-in rebate available for qualified systems
- $850 instant discount available from participating wholesale distributors and retailers (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 intentionally heated space
- Air filter needs periodic rinsing
- As loud as a dehumidifier

**ELECTRIC WATER HEATER**

- Uses electric resistive elements to heat water.

**ADVANTAGES**

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

**DISADVANTAGES**

- High installation cost
- Back-up required
- Solar exposure required

**SOLAR WATER HEATER**

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

**ADVANTAGES**

- Low up-front 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®

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*Source: energystar.gov accessed 7/1/2020

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**INCENTIVE AVAILABLE**

**$850**