

Saving Hot Water and Energy

Reducing Hot Water Use:

- **Fix your leaks:** if your water heater's tank leaks, you need a new water heater.
- **Install Low-Flow Fixtures:**
 - **Showerheads:** there are two basic types of low-flow showerheads: aerating and laminar-flow. Aerating heads mix air with water, creating a misty spray. Laminar-flow heads form individual streams of water, and creates less steam and moisture than alternatives.
 - **Faucets:** Make sure your faucets have aerators; they screw on tip of the faucet and are inexpensive to replace. Low-flow aerators have flow rates of no more than 1.0 gpm.
- **Purchase Energy-Efficient Dishwashers and Clothes Washers:**
 - **Dishwasher:** When purchasing a dishwasher, check the EnergyGuide label. To consume less energy, only operate your dishwasher when its load is full. And, remember to utilize the availability of cycle selection; shorter cycles require less hot water and save more energy.
 - **Clothes Washer:** When purchasing a clothes washer, check the EnergyGuide Label. Efficient clothes washers spin-dry your clothes more effectively, saving energy when drying as well. Front-loading machines use less water, and therefore, use less energy than top loaders. When possible use only cold or warm water for laundry loads.

Lower Your Water Heating Temperature: To save energy, simply reduce the thermostat setting on your water heater. Most water heater thermostats are set at 60 degrees Celsius by manufacturers. Reducing the water temperature to 50 degrees Celsius can save between 3%-5% in energy costs. Consult your water heater owner's manual for instructions on how to operate the thermostat.

Consider Installing Other Devices:

- **Heat Traps:** If your storage water heater doesn't already have heat traps, you can easily save energy by adding them to your water heating system. Heat traps allow water to flow into the water heater tank but prevent hot-water flow out of the tank. However, installation requires a qualified plumbing and heating contractor.
- **Drain-Water Heat Recovery:** Hot water that goes down the drain possesses energy. Drain-water Heat Recovery Systems capture that energy and uses it to preheat cold water entering the water heater or going to other water fixtures.
- **Timers:** if you have an electric water heater, you can save energy by installing a timer that turns it off at night when you don't need hot water and/or during your utility's peak demand times.

Insulate Your Water Heater Tank and Pipes: If you touch your tank and it's warm, additional insulation is needed. Adding insulation can reduce standby heat losses by 25%-45% and save you around 4%-9% in water heating costs. Insulating your hot water pipes can also reduce heat loss and raise water temperature higher than uninsulated pipes can deliver, which allows for a lower water temperature setting.





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0508 SUSTAIN (78 78 24)

advice@sustaintrust.org.nz