



## Heat Pump Water Heaters: Your solution to high water heating costs

Heat pump water heaters offer a more efficient alternative to traditional electric water heaters, which can be a major source of wasted energy. Fun fact: A new electric water heater uses 10 times more energy than the average new refrigerator ([smarterhouse.org](http://smarterhouse.org))! Because water heating is the second-largest energy expense in the home, installing a heat pump water heater can be an excellent way to save money.

### What is a heat pump water heater?

Instead of *generating* heat by using electricity like traditional electric water heaters, heat pump water heaters work by *moving* the heat from the surrounding air into the water inside the water heater. This is 2-3 times more efficient than traditional water heaters. Upgrading means you'll get to enjoy big savings while maintaining the same hot water that you're accustomed to.

Heat pump water heaters may also be called hybrid water heaters because they can switch to using traditional electric resistance during peak usage times in your home, if needed.

### Why heat pump water heaters are worth every penny

If your current unit is 10-15 years old, it may be approaching the end of its expected product lifespan. Even if it seems to be working, it could be using considerably more electricity to heat your water than a newer, more efficient model. If you're not sure how old your unit is, [take a look at this chart](#) or contact the manufacturer.

#### *Cost Savings and Efficiency*

Heat pump water heaters are efficient and require less energy than traditional water heaters, which is a win for your wallet. It's also good for the planet – and you can still enjoy a nice, hot shower. That's a win-win.

#### *Comfort*

A heat pump water heater will provide cooling and dehumidification in the space where it's located. This can be a bonus if installed in a space with excess heat like an unfinished basement or crawlspace. But the biggest comfort is knowing that your home's water heater is doing its job far more efficiently than before.

## *Safety*

Some heat pump water heaters offer you the option to adjust water temperature settings based on high-usage times in your home, as well as limiting the maximum temperature. These options ensure a smooth, safe operation built around your needs.

## **Let's talk about rebates!**

Saving energy = saving money. We offer a rebate of 50% of cost up to \$250 for installing a heat pump water heater as a part of our Home Energy Improvement Program. This means you save money in the long run while earning a rebate!

## **Is a Heat Pump Water Heater right for me?**

If you already have a tank electric water heater, you're potentially a good fit for this upgrade. Upgrading to a heat pump water heater offers a lot of advantages, but comes with a few considerations:

- **Sound** – Heat pump water heaters are typically louder than traditional water heaters. They sound similar to a dehumidifier when running.
- **Location** – Ideally, this would be an unconditioned, unoccupied space where cooling and noise will not be an issue. It should accommodate a condensate drainage line and provide more than 1,000 cubic feet of surrounding air.
- **Power** – Depending on the home's existing water heater fuel type, a heat pump water heater may require some electrical work.
- **Temperature** – Heat pump water heaters transfer heat from the surrounding air, so they cannot operate in below freezing temperatures. They operate best in areas in your home where temperatures are between 40° and 90° year-round.

These specifications – [along with the rest of the list found here](#) – mean that it's especially important to talk with a professional before deciding on this upgrade.

## **Before you start**

Having a conversation with a professional can help you determine whether a heat pump water heater is right for you. Professionals, as well as the manufacturer's guide, can give you an idea of what your estimated savings will be after installation. But bear in mind that changes to your energy consumption (e.g., more people moving in or a significant increase in water usage) may affect your actual savings.

## **Get started today**

- [The Georgia Power Home Energy Improvement Program](#)
- [Home energy assessment article](#)
- [Contact a professional](#)