

Hot water

Save on running costs with gas or solar hot water systems


**Smarter
Choice**

Save energy, water
and money



Save on running costs with high efficiency gas or solar hot water systems. Buy a gas hot water system with at least 5 stars.

In Victoria, hot water accounts for around 20% of household energy use. A high efficiency gas hot water system is one of the most economical types of water heaters when operated on natural gas. The cheapest and most environmentally friendly type of water heating to run is natural gas-boosted solar.

Hot water system types

There are two basic types of hot water systems:

- › **Storage** water is heated and stored in an insulated tank for use when required.
- › **Instantaneous (or continuous flow)** heats the water only when it's required. A storage tank isn't needed.

Compare star ratings

- › For gas, use the energy rating label to find the most efficient hot water system to suit your needs.
- › To further compare models refer to the energy consumption number on the label.

Buy to save in the long run

- › Buy a gas hot water system with at least 5 stars, every extra star will save you money.
- › Choose the right sized system for your hot water needs in consultation with your hot water specialist.

Maximise efficiency

- › Install the system close to your hot water outlets and use closed-cell rubber insulation on pipes.
- › For instantaneous systems choose electronic ignition instead of a continuous pilot light to reduce gas consumption.
- › Keep your shower under four minutes and make further savings.

More information

Ask your retailer, phone 1300 363 744 or visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/smarterchoice

Running costs

Energy Source	Type	Energy Rating	Annual Cost*
Small 1–2 people/100 litres per day			
Natural Gas	Storage	★★★	\$275
		★★★★★	\$219
	Instant	★★★★	\$198
		★★★★★	\$162
Electricity	Storage – P tariff	N/A	\$682
	Instant – P tariff	N/A	\$535
	Storage – OP tariff	N/A	\$508
	Solar	Natural gas boosted+	N/A
	Electric boosted – OP tariff+	N/A	\$194
Medium 3–4 people/200 litres per day			
Natural Gas	Storage	★★★	\$436
		★★★★★	\$362
	Instant	★★★	\$395
		★★★★★	\$324
Electricity	Storage – P tariff	N/A	\$1337
	Instant – P tariff	N/A	\$1070
	Storage – OP tariff	N/A	\$859
	Solar	Natural gas boosted+	N/A
Electric boosted – OP tariff+		N/A	\$293
Large 5+ people/250 litres per day			
Natural Gas	Storage	★★★	\$ 516
		★★★★★	\$ 434
	Instant	★★★	\$ 494
		★★★★★	\$ 406
Electricity	Storage – P tariff	N/A	\$ 1,609
	Instant – P tariff	N/A	\$ 1,337
	Storage – OP tariff	N/A	\$ 1035
	Solar	Natural gas boosted+	N/A
Electric boosted – OP tariff+		N/A	\$399

P = peak OP = off peak. Based on energy tariffs of: natural gas (1.75 c/MJ), LPG (4 c/MJ), peak electricity (28 c/kWh), off-peak electricity (18 c/kWh). *All gas hot water systems are star rated – the more stars the more energy efficient they are and the cheaper to run. + Based on a 70% solar contribution at rated delivery. Costs of 100 L/day based on unit with small rated delivery, and costs for all other uses based on a unit with a large rated delivery. ^ Based on a 60% solar contribution at rated delivery.