

Water Heating

Water heating is a significant energy expense in homes. It typically accounts for about 18 percent of the average utility bill. Heated water is used for showers, baths, laundry, dish washing, and cleaning. The greatest cost of washing dishes, bathing, and washing clothes comes from the energy required to heat the water. There are four main ways you can lower your water heating bills:

- use less hot water;
- turn down the thermostat on your water heater;
- insulate your water heater and water pipes; and
- buy an ENERGY STAR® or energy efficient water heater, dishwasher, and washing machine.

The easiest way to cut the cost of heating water is to reduce the amount of hot water you use. This can be done with little cost and minor changes in lifestyle. For example, a five minute shower uses 10-25 gallons of water. You can cut that amount in half by using a low-flow shower head.

Other ways to conserve hot water include taking showers instead of baths, taking shorter showers, fixing leaks in faucets and pipes, and using the lowest temperature wash and rinse settings on clothes washers.

Most water heater thermostats are set much higher than necessary. Lowering the temperature setting on your water heater to 120°F (49°C) saves energy. Lowering the temperature 10 degrees Fahrenheit (6°C) can result in energy savings of \$12-\$30 annually. Buying a high efficiency water heater can save \$40-\$140 a year.

Cooking

Cooking food is another task that uses energy—usually natural gas, electricity, or propane. Most homes have several appliances for cooking food—stoves, ovens, microwaves, and toaster ovens. To save energy when you are cooking:

- Use a toaster oven or microwave instead of the oven whenever you can. These smaller appliances use less energy.
- Preheat the oven for only five minutes.
- Leave the oven door closed so hot air does not escape. Use a timer instead of checking on the food every few minutes.

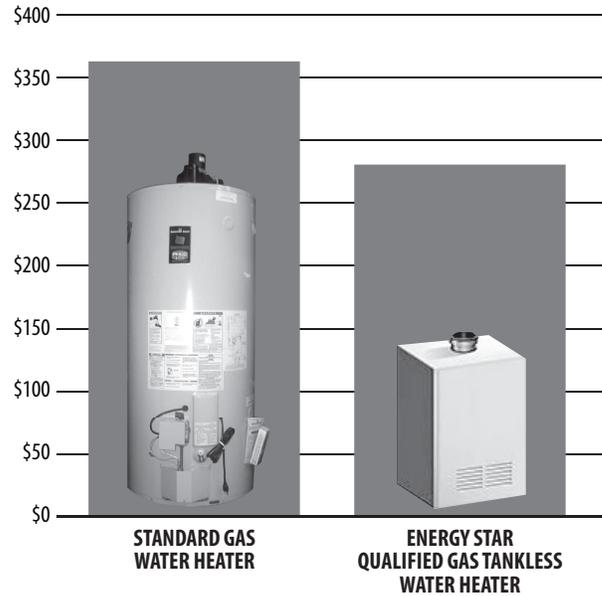
Transportation Sector

Americans make up about 4.4 percent of the world's population, yet we own 15.6 percent of the world's automobiles. The transportation sector of the economy accounts for more than 27 percent of total energy use. America is a country on the move.

For model year 2016, the average motor vehicle uses 665 gallons of gasoline every year. You can achieve 10 percent fuel savings by improving your driving habits and keeping your car properly maintained. Over the life of a vehicle, your family can save a lot of money on gas by choosing a fuel-efficient model.

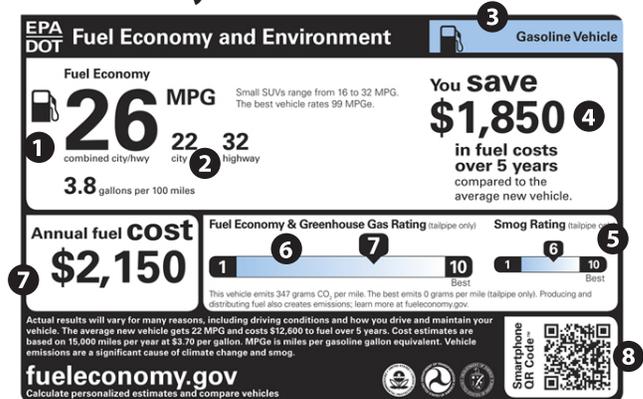
Water Heater Comparison

ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS PER YEAR



Data: ENERGY STAR®

Fuel Economy Label



1. Combined city/highway MPG for this vehicle compared to other in its class
2. Estimated range of MPG for most drivers
3. Type of fuel used in the vehicle
4. Estimated savings over five-year period compared to the average new vehicle
5. Smog rating for tailpipe emissions compared to other vehicles
6. Combined fuel economy and emissions rating compared to other vehicles
7. Estimated fuel cost based on 15,000 miles per year at \$3.70 per gallon
8. QR code to direct buyers to more information

The corporate average fuel economy standard (regulated by the U.S. government, also known as CAFE) required for new passenger cars, light trucks, and SUVs, is 34.1 miles per gallon (combined city and highway mileage). There are some dedicated electric vehicles on the market today that can achieve the equivalent of over 100 mpg. If you buy a fuel-efficient vehicle, you can save a lot on fuel costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Compare the fuel economy of vehicles you are considering, and make fuel economy a priority. All cars must display a fuel economy label that lists the estimated miles per gallon for both city and highway driving, like the one above, to help you compare.