

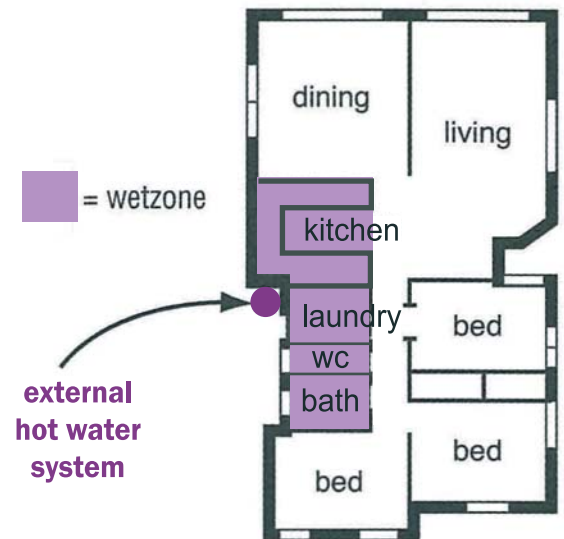
Hot Water Hints For Your Home

Hot water accounts for up to a half of an average household's energy use in NSW. The overall cost of your hot water depends not only on the type of heater and fuel used, but also on the way the unit is installed and how you use hot water in the home.



Where Is The Best Place To Install My Hot Water System?

Install your system as close as possible to the kitchen, bathroom and laundry, which are the main hot water draw-off points around the home. If this is not possible, install it close to the kitchen, which typically uses small amounts of hot water throughout the day. This helps to keep pipe lengths short, minimising installation costs and heat losses from pipes. Keep the hot water system sheltered. This will help reduce heat losses from storage tanks, and will protect any pilot lights from draughts.



Installing And Running Your System For Optimum Energy Efficiency

- Have your system installed by a registered trades person, maintain it as required and have it serviced according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- For energy saving and adequate hot water supply, the optimum water temperature for storage hot water systems is between 60-65°C.
- Insulate hot water pipes, especially the first two metres leading from the hot water system. Closed cell rubber insulation is recommended, to keep the insulation dry.
- Install a timer on peak-rate electricity storage units.
- Have your plumber rectify any problems of 'water hammer'.
- Constant pressure storage tanks boosted by solid fuel heaters should be installed directly above the solid fuel heater to make full use of the natural rise of the heated water to supply the tank.
- Regularly activate the relief valves and drain cocks fitted to mains pressure storage systems. These are safety mechanisms to ensure that the system does not build up dangerously high levels of pressure inside. You should activate these two valves about once every three months.

Hot Water Hints

- Check the gas flame in your gas unit. When it is burning efficiently it will be blue. If it is yellow you should have it checked by a service person.
- Turn off electric storage systems connected to general or peak rate whenever you can. They can be very expensive to run.
- Try to use the hot water less frequently but in larger quantities. This leaves less water to go cold in the pipe work.
- Turn off any hot water storage system if you are going away on holidays. Some units have a 'vacation' setting to make this easier.

How To Use Hot Water Efficiently Around Your Home

- Fit an AAA rated showerhead. Showering usually makes up over 30% of hot water usage in the home.
- Take a short shower instead of a bath. You could reduce hot water usage and save around \$20 per person per year.
- Insulate around your bath during installation. This helps to keep bath water hotter for longer.
- Fix dripping taps. A tap dripping 45 times per minute wastes around 1000 litres of hot water a month, the equivalent of ten bathtubs or over \$25 a year!
- Use cold water for tasks where hot water is not absolutely necessary, e.g. clothes washing with a suitable cold water detergent. This can mean savings of up to \$20 a year.
- Use a suds-saving facility on your washing machine. This will let you reuse soapy water.
- Only wash with a full load in your washing machine and dishwasher.
- Use cold water to rinse dirty dishes.
- Connect your dishwasher to the cold water pipe. Although it may be more expensive for the unit to heat its own water, part of the wash cycle only requires cold water. If there is a long pipe distance from the tank to the washer, it is possible not to get any hot water into the washer and therefore the water will be heated by the washer to the required temperature. Use the economy cycle on your dishwasher wherever possible.



Further Information

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council on 6581 8111 or visit www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au.

Federal Government Greenhouse Office on 1300 130 606 or visit www.greenhouse.gov.au

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The information on this brochure is from the NSW Government's 'Live Energy Smart' project.