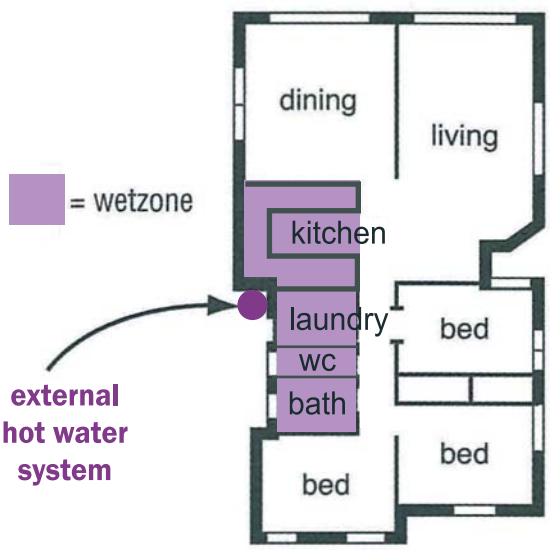
Hot Water Hints For Your Home

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.