

Heat Pump Water Heaters



By far the most energy efficient water heaters on the market are heat pump, aka hybrid, water heaters. They efficiently transfer heat instead of creating it, which leads to huge energy savings.

Why switch?

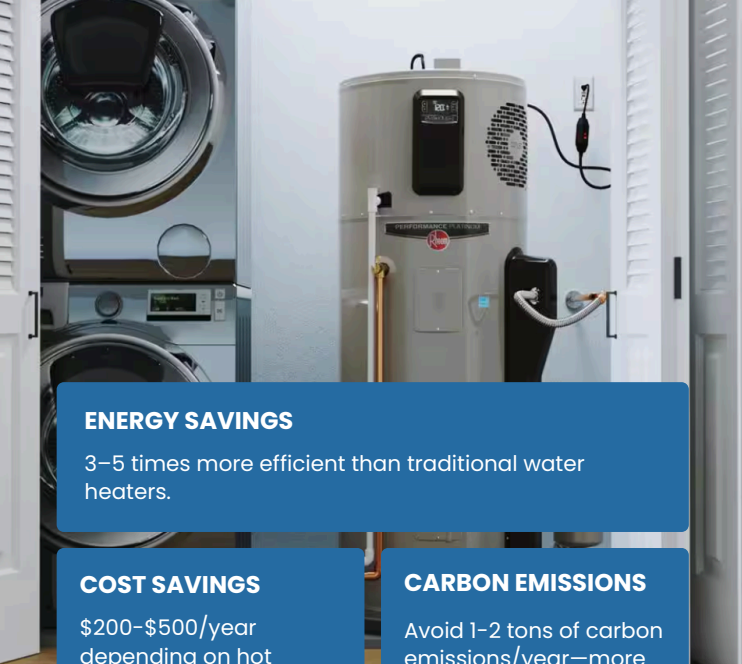
18% of home energy is used for heating water. Heat pump water heaters are 3-5 times more efficient than traditional water heaters and work in all climates! Plus, there are generous incentives to offset the cost of upgrading.

How do they work?

Using the same tech as your fridge, a heat pump water heater harvests heat from the surrounding air, then concentrates that heat into refrigerant coils. That heat is then transferred to the water storage tank to heat your water.

What size do you need?

Heat pump water heaters use a heat pump for high efficiency heating, and also have back-up electric resistance coils that turn on when hot water demand is high. Replacing your current water heater with the same sized heat pump water heater is often the right choice. If you have very high hot water use, you might consider upsizing to a larger tank to avoid triggering the electric resistance heating, which will keep energy use and energy bills lower. Set the water heater to 'Heat Pump Only mode' to maximize energy savings.



ENERGY SAVINGS

3–5 times more efficient than traditional water heaters.

COST SAVINGS

\$200–\$500/year depending on hot water use.

CARBON EMISSIONS

Avoid 1–2 tons of carbon emissions/year—more when paired with renewable electricity.

How to get started!

Find a good place for it. HPWHs require 450–700 cubic feet of space to operate most efficiently. Garages and basements are great if you have one. Units can be installed in smaller areas with venting.

Upgrade wiring if needed. Most HPWHs require a 30 Amp, 240V circuit. If you're replacing a gas water heater, you will likely need an electrician to install a new dedicated circuit as part of the installation. There are also now 120V HPWH models!

Get three quotes. Get estimates from three plumbers or HVAC contractors with HPWH experience.

Rebates & Tax Credits

- 30% Federal tax credit (up to \$2k)
- \$700 Energy Trust discount (where applicable)
- Low and moderate income up-front rebate up to \$1,800 (available 2026)

Get more helpful resources and sign up for a free yard sign at www.electrifypdx.org

