

WATER HEATERS (SOLAR)

Water heating accounts for approximately 20 per cent of your home's energy bill.

Solar hot water heaters, also known as, solar domestic hot water (SDHW) systems, use the sun's energy to generate hot water, which lowers your energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.

For year-round water heating in Canadian climates, select a system that can be protected from freezing. Only freeze-protected systems will generate hot water when the temperature dips well below zero.

Solar water heaters have a longer life expectancy than other models and they are generally designed for use with a back-up water heater, either electric or gas.

A tankless (on-demand) water heater may be used as the back-up.



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WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- An ENERGY STAR certified solar water heater will use 60 per cent less energy, on average, than a standard model
- Choose a freeze-protected system for year round use
- Make sure you purchase a tank-size appropriate for the number of people in your house



THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Hire a qualified solar thermal systems contractor to install your system with experience in electrical, plumbing and carpentry. Solar hot water heaters must be installed to CSA standards.
- Solar water heating systems almost always require a backup system for cloudy days and times of increased demand.
- Consider financing your solar water heater and other home energy improvements through the City of Toronto's Home Energy Loan Program (HELP).
- Consider getting an EnerGuide Energy Efficiency Home Evaluation to help you understand how your home uses energy and identify all improvement opportunities.
- Check with your municipality, utility or retailer to see if rebates are available.



COST:

\$6,000 - \$10,000 including installation.

BetterHomesTO: Tips, tools & resources to improve the energy efficiency of your home. [BetterHomesTO.ca](https://www.betterhometo.ca)

