



Water Heating

Solar hot water systems that are gas-boosted or gas hot water systems should be top of your list when you're choosing a new system.



Choose a gas hot water system with at least a 5-star energy efficiency rating to save 15% on running costs. A gas boosted solar hot water system will double those savings and you may also be eligible for a rebate. Talk to your plumber.

Maximise efficiency of your new system

Once you've chosen your new system, taking a few simple measures at installation will maximise the system's efficiency and your savings. Install the system close to your hot water outlets so water doesn't have to travel far and lose heat along the way.

Insulate the first few metres of piping with closed-cell pipes to reduce heat loss around your hot water system.

When installing solar hot water systems in frostprone areas, check the system has frost protection and that this is covered in the warranty.

- Short showers save energy as well as water

Greenhouse gas emissions of different hot water systems

Type	Tonnes of CO ₂ Per Year
Gas boosted solar	0.5 to 1.0
Gas Water Heaters	1.0 to 1.5
Electric boosted solar	1.5 to 2.0
Electric water heater	5.0 to 5.5



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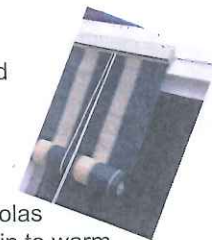
Making you house more energy efficient

Keeping you house cool in summer

Cooling your house in summer can be difficult, but before you reach for the air conditioning try reducing the heat coming through your windows. You can reduce heat gain through windows by up to 80% by implementing some of the measures below.

Create external shades

Install awnings on north, west and east facing windows to reduce heat from direct sunlight.



Fit north-facing windows with 900mm eaves or adjustable pergolas designed to allow low winter sun in to warm your home but keep out the summer sun.

Use plants to block summer sun. Deciduous trees and pergola vines on the north, east and west sides of your home will still let in winter sun.



Heat your home more efficiently

Around half a household's energy use goes into heating, but a lot of this heat is quickly lost through the ceiling and windows. A few simple measures will cut this heat loss and vastly improve your heating efficiency.

Install Insulation

Insulation is the single most energy-efficient addition to your home. Insulate your roof, ceiling and walls. Save up to 45% on heating and cooling energy with roof and ceiling insulation and up to an extra 15% with wall insulation.



The effectiveness of insulation is measured as an 'R value' based on its thickness and density. The higher the R value, the better the insulation.

Buy high-rated ceiling insulation R value 3.5 and above and get it installed professionally leaving no gaps.

Use high-rated wall insulation if you're building or renovating. Use R2.0 rated insulation for walls, as they generally have a smaller air gap than a roof space.

If you're replastering or replacing existing external wall materials take the opportunity to insulate your walls.

Draught-proof your house to save up to 25% on heating costs

Fit draught seals to the base of doors and weather strips to door jambs.

Seal windows, walls, ceiling, architraves and floorboards. Products that fix gaps and leaks can be found at your hardware store.

Close dampeners to close fire places when not in use.

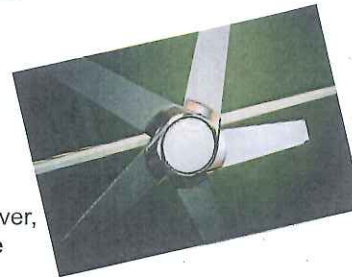
Seal old style wall vents unless you're using unflued gas heaters.

Install automatically opening and closing exhaust fans which vent straight into the roof. These open when the fan is in use but close and stop draughts at other times.

Install close-fitting thick or lined curtains or Holland and Roman blinds with pelmets to stop heat transfer through windows and sliding glass doors.

Avoid loose woven fabrics and vertical blinds.

Use tinting or reflective films on large unshaded east and west facing windows and roof glass to avoid overheating in summer. This will, however, reduce the benefit of the sun in winter.



Take care with skylights

Cover skylights with shutters, blinds or shade cloth on hot days.

Install tubular skylights on south-facing roofs to brighten your home without heating it in the process.

Pay attention to suspended floors

Save up to 5% of your winter energy costs with appropriate floor insulation under suspended floors. Concrete slabs use the insulating value of the ground below and need minimal insulation.

Speak to an energy-efficient builder, designer or insulation retailer to help you match the right insulation product to your situation.

Check that your installer has been trained to meet the Australian Standard. When it's correctly installed, there'll be no gaps to cut the effectiveness of the insulation.

Reduce your reliance on air conditioning

Use ceiling and portable fans in preference to an air conditioner.

When temperatures fall overnight, open doors, windows and dampeners on fireplaces to vent hot air and cool your home naturally.

Draw curtains and blinds and close doors and windows early in the morning to keep the house cool on hot days.