

Water-heating costs can easily be reduced

Aside from space heating, water heating probably represents the biggest portion of your energy consumption.

The easiest method of reducing water-heating costs is to lower the temperature of the water. By turning the water heater thermostat down to about 49°C, you will consume less energy while keeping the water hot enough for most needs. However, unless it has a booster, a dishwasher may require water at 60°C.

Sensible use of hot water can also save you money. Wash only full loads of clothes and use warm or cold water whenever possible (always use cold water for the rinse cycle). Wait until the dishwasher is full before running it and use the energy saver cycle as often as possible. If you buy a new dishwasher, purchase a unit equipped with a built-in preheater that boosts the water temperature to the required 60°C.

Flow-restrictors and aerators on faucets and showerheads are inexpensive and allow you to use much less water.

Leaky faucets waste more water than you might think: just one drop per second will waste enough water every month for 16 hot baths. And speaking of baths... showers usually use less water.

One of the easiest ways to reduce your water-heating costs is to pay attention to the amount of hot water you use in day-to-day activities. Don't use hot water if warm water will do the job. Similarly, don't automatically turn the warm water on full force if a lesser amount of warm water — or better yet, cool water — will be just as effective.

Insulation can also help reduce water-heating costs, especially if the water heater is located in a relatively cool area of the house. Check with your local utility for their recommendations.

Standby losses from water heaters (heat lost through the tank because of the temperature difference between the water inside the unit and the air surrounding it) can be reduced in several ways. Specially designed insulation kits that meet Canadian General Standards Board specifications are available at hardware stores for between \$15 and \$25. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully when installing these kits.

Alternatively, homeowners can make a water heater jacket using batt insulation with an attached aluminum foil vapour barrier. Wrap the heater with the insulation, leaving the vapour barrier on the outside. Trim overlapping or overhanging insulation, cut openings for the drain valve, thermo-

stat, pilot light if the tank has one, pressure relief valve, tank labeling and other controls, and then seal the insulation with heavy duct tape at all the seams. Make sure the blanket is fastened in position.

When you are insulating a natural gas, propane or oil-fired water heater, do not install insulation below the burner controls, the combustion air openings and vent connections, or on the top of the heater. The insulation should be no thicker than 75 mm and the thermostat setting no higher than medium.

The thermostat setting on an electric water heater should be below 60°C and the insulation should be no more than 51 mm thick. (Leaking water tanks should not be insulated.) The insulation should extend over the top of the heater

and openings should be cut for wiring connections, access doors and the rating plate. The pressure release valve and overflow pipe should remain outside the insulation.

Whether you buy a ready-made water heater insulation kit or make one yourself, you'll save enough in water heating costs to pay for the job within a year or so.

You can also benefit from insulating long runs of hot water piping. This is worthwhile when the pipes pass through cool or unheated areas. The insulation should be at least 13 mm thick to be effective. Batt insulation with all seams sealed with duct tape works well, but ready-made pipe insulation is the most practical.

Toronto Real Estate Board wins award

The Toronto Real Estate Board has been awarded a special education merit award by the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA).

The award, which was presented at the recently held OREA Annual Conference in Toronto, was given for the Board's development and publication of the "Real Estate Journal."

The "Real Estate Journal" is published quarterly by the Toronto Real Estate Board and distributed free as a service to its membership. The Journal is recognized for its unique contribution as a real estate publication and has been applauded by the membership and received numerous accolades from within the real estate profession.

The award program is sponsored by the Education Department of OREA - which acts as the provincial government's nominee for the development and administration of all real estate licensing courses in the province.

OREA is one of the Ontario's largest trade associations with some 40,000 professional realtors in 48 local real estate boards active in most communities in Ontario.



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GEORGETOWN DOCTORS IN 1850s

Dr. William Freeman was a Georgetown doctor in the 1850s. While still a student, he ran the Georgetown office of Dr. Herrod who practised in Guelph. Dr. Freeman's office was located in his brick home at the north-west corner of Church and Main. Dr. Freeman married Dr. James Cobban's daughter. Dr. Cobban was born in Scotland but lived in Greenland and Jamaica before coming to Canada. Dr. William Freeman had a brother Clarkson, who also became a doctor, after having been a teacher, studied law and deciding he knew so little tried farming. After graduating from University in 1853 he married Elizabeth Martha Cobban (his brother's wife's eldest sister). By 1877, Georgetown boasted four doctors.

Thanks to 'A Peek Into Georgetown Past' written by students of Centennial school.

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