Better water use means more savings

If you're planning to buy or rent a new hot water heater for your home, Lhere's a tip that could save you up to \$100 per year: Bigger isn't necessarily bet-

Even if you're satisfied with the unit you've got, there are ways to cut down on the energy you use to heat water. And you need look no further than your home heating bill to remind you that any energy you save is money in your pocket. What's more, using energy from fossil fuels produces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Saving energy means producing fewer of those emissions and helping our environment become healthier for all of us.

The hot water heater is one of the biggest energy users in many Canadian homes, second only to the furnace. So it makes sense to keep track of your hot water consumption and make sure the heater is running as efficiently as possible.

If you're keeping an older hot water appliance, your first priority is to insulate the heater itself, plus at least the first metre of piping. The insulation pays for itself by preventing you from throwing valuable energy into thin air.

The next step is to look at ways to reduce your hot water use. A low-flow shower head can cut your water use in the shower by more than 30 percent. You can use water more wisely by fixing leaky taps and by installing tap aerators that give you the same pressure with less water flow. And you can reduce the energy you use for a load of laundry by 93 percent by washing and rinsing your clothes in cold water. Remember, anything you do to save hot water will cut your energy bill as well.

You can also reduce your cold water use by installing a modern, low-flow toilet that uses less water to flush. Even if your water isn't metered, a water-efficient toilet will make it easier for your municipality to supply fresh water and handle wastewater, another real load off our environment.

The same energy- and water-saving strategies will also apply if you're in the market for a new water heater. Many of the newer units are more efficient to begin with. But you can also save money by buying a smaller heater if, for example, older children have left home and you're now using less hot water.

Every time we use energy from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas, we produce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has developed the EnerGuide for Houses Program (EGH) to help the environment. Managed by NRCan's Office of Energy Efficiency, EGH can provide a wealth of unbiased, expert advice on every aspect of home energy efficiency - from hot water heaters and furnaces to windows, walls and roofs. The EGH service involves a thorough home visit with an energy advisor who will give you a customized plan to improve your home's energy efficiency. The service is managed by NRCan and offered through private sector organizations across Canada.

For more EGH advice on energy savings at home, visit the EnerGuide Web site oee.nrcan.gc.ca/energuide/houses. You can also call 1-800-387-2000 toll-free to ask for the name of an advisor in your area.

-News Canada

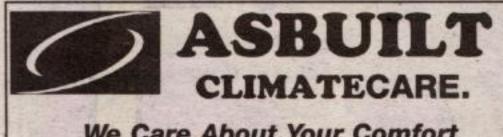






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