

Managing Home Energy Costs

Save on Water Heating and Water Costs

Water heating accounts for about 20% of your annual home energy costs. There are several ways you can manage your water heating costs, without sacrificing your comfort or convenience. An added benefit is that managing hot water may also reduce your water and sewer costs.

Water Heaters

- At 8 cents per kilowatt hour, water heating will cost the average family about \$40 per month.

TIPS

- Set the electric water heater thermostat(s) to about 120 degrees F. If you use a dishwasher that does not preheat dishwashing water, set the thermostat(s) to about 130 degrees. If there are children in the home, care should be taken as hot water can cause scalding. If you won't need hot water for a few days, turn your electric water heater off at the electrical panel. When power is restored, it will take about 2.5 hours to reheat.
- Insulate the first three feet of hot and cold water pipes closest to the water heater.
- When purchasing a new electric water heater, choose an energy-efficient model. Contact MP&L for information on energy-efficient models, retailers, and available rebates.

Bathing

- At 8 cents per kilowatt hour, a shower costs about 2.5 cents per minute.

TIPS

- Whenever possible, choose a shower instead of a bath. Baths use more than twice the hot water as showers.
- Install high-performance showerheads and faucet aerators. New high performance showerheads use only 1.5 to 2.0 gallons per minute.

Clothes Washers

- A typical top load clothes washer uses around 40 gallons of hot water per load. At 8 cents per kilowatt hour, one clothes washer load (set at hot wash/hot rinse) costs about 44 cents.

TIPS

- Warm wash/rinse setting will reduce the clothes washer load cost to about 24 cents.
- Cold wash/rinse setting will reduce the washing load cost to about 3 cents.
- Don't overload or under-load the washer. Wash full loads when possible. If washing a small load, remember to set the wash size to "small" on your washer control settings.
- Fifteen minutes of presoaking and five minutes of agitation gets clothes cleaner than 15 minutes of agitation.
- When purchasing a new clothes washer, consider a "horizontal-axis" model. It can save up to 1/3 of clothes washing energy costs and water/sewer costs.
- Look for the Energy Star label when purchasing a new clothes washer.

Dishwashers

- At 8 cents per kilowatt hour, one dishwasher load costs about 24 cents in energy.

TIPS

- If your dishwasher has an "energy saver" mode, use it.
- Run your dishwasher only when it's full.
- When purchasing a new dishwasher, look for the Energy Star label. These models are 13% more energy-efficient than required by federal standards.

Water Heating - Statistics from the book, Residential Energy, Cost Savings and Comfort for Existing Buildings, second edition, by John Krigger, published by Saturn Resource Management.

Rebates Available: Monmouth Power & Light (MP&L) offers rebates to help customers save energy on clothes washers and water heaters.



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