

## **Things to Consider when Buying a Solar Hot Water System**

The most pressing issue today is environmental conservation, in any and every way possible. The second most pressing issue is the growing inflation and the subsequent increase in the cost of living. One way to get better of both these challenges is to turn towards eco-friendly resources. They are good for the environment, and they save help you save money. One simple way to begin with is a **solar hot water** system. However, before you purchase one, make sure that you give due importance to certain considerations.

### **Required capacity**

When you install a solar water heater, you need to ensure that it meets your family's needs so that you do not have to depend on any other source for hot water. The capacity of your solar heater depends on the number of people and the kind of appliances that are going to use the system.

Calculate the required capacity by taking into consideration all the activities for which you use hot water. Usually, a home with two people needs a solar heater of 160 to 200 litres capacity and a collection area of 2 sq.mts. If there are five to six people in the house, you need a heater of 400 litres capacity and a collection area of 6 sq.mts.

If you live in a place where sunlight is meagre for some parts of the year, ask the dealer about the efficiency of heating during the cold months.

### **Local regulations**

Check with the local government agency and find out about any regulations that apply to installation and usage of solar water heaters. Some states might impose a limit on the size of heater you can install on your roof.

There could be rules associated with the company you hire for installing the heater. .

Before installing, you might have to submit the proposed plans to the local council. All these are very important considerations before you install a **solar hot water** system; otherwise, you could get into trouble with the law.

### **Cost considerations**

Consult with different reputed dealers before making the final decision. Request quotes and compare them so that you can choose the best deal. However, cost should not be the final deciding factor.

In addition to the cost of the **solar hot water** system, you also need to calculate costs involved in purchase and installation, and maintenance. Solar heaters usually do not require high maintenance.

Also, devices that run on renewable energy carry subsidies and rebates. Find out the ones that are applicable in your place of residence. You could also receive tax rebates on purchase of solar powered equipment.