

A Buying Guide to Electric Hot Water System

The **electric hot water** system in your home is probably the least thought about appliance, and yet the most expensive when it comes to electricity consumption. These units can easily cost you about quarter of your energy bills depending on your utility. So whether it's time to replace your existing system or whether you are looking to fit out heating systems for your new home, it's good to delve into your options and find one that is energy efficient and one that suits your needs.

When your **electric hot water** system fails, you would probably think to repair it, replace it with the same system or switch to a better choice. Asking yourself these questions can help you make the right decision.

Energy efficiency

Making eco friendly choices can mean lighter utility bills and a strong contribution to the environment too. For instance, standard **electric hot water** systems, on an average, are said to emit about 4 tonnes of greenhouse gases annually, which is about 3 times more than gas powered or solar powered systems.

Consequently, new government regulations are in place after considering the environmental impact of electric heaters. So, it would be best to verify these regulations before finding a suitable heating system.

Although the initial expense of installing a gas or solar water heating system could be high, they more than make up for it in the long run with cheaper utility bills and lower maintenance costs.

Storage or instant

Water heaters are of two types: storage heaters and instant heaters. As the name goes, storage heaters store hot water according to their capacity for a longer period. Instant heaters, on the other hand, heat instantly but cannot retain hot water for long as they do not need a tank.

While the traditional storage water heater may require more storage space due to its tank, instant heaters have a fairly compact set up. Another high and low with the instant heating system is that they do not consume much electricity, but they are a little more expensive.

Choosing the ideal system

Depending on the size of your house or property and your usage, you can opt for either a whole house heating system or a point of use system. Both these systems are compatible with electric, gas and solar powered systems and also with storage heaters and instant heaters.

Whole house systems can supply hot water for more than one fixture at a time. But, keep in mind that you may have to opt for a larger storage tank depending on your use and the number of connections around the house.

Point of use systems are usually directly connected under the sink or around the shower. They can be installed alongside a whole house system for specific locations where you may need additional or instant hot water.

Apart from these larger aspects, a few other details like the material of the tank, its dimensions, and its energy saving technology also need to be thoroughly considered.