

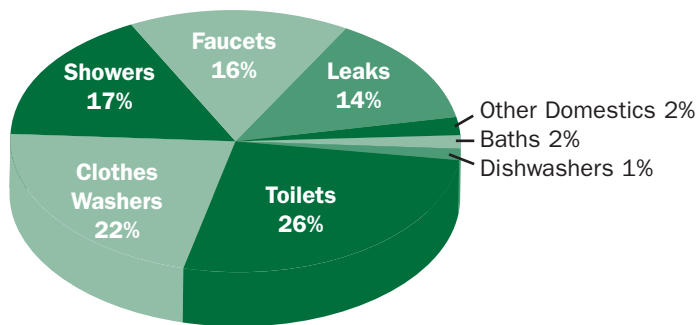


Reduce hot water use to save energy and money

TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

Water heating is the third-largest energy expense in the home, accounting for between 13 percent and 25 percent of energy costs. With energy prices rising, more and more Wisconsin residents are looking for ways to reduce their hot water use and save money at home.

The average single-family home uses nearly 70 gallons of water per person each day.



Source: *Handbook of Water Use and Conservation*, Amy Vickers

The following tips can help you save water and energy—cutting your costs and helping to protect the environment.

TIPS FOR SAVING HOT WATER AT HOME

- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Install faucet aerators and water-saving showerheads. Inexpensive and easy to install, these devices can reduce water-heating costs by 50 percent.
- Install a dual-spray swivel aerator on the kitchen faucet. Some models include a flip lever to quickly and easily reduce the flow to a trickle, saving additional water.
- Turn the faucet on the kitchen sink to “cold” when using small amounts of water. The “hot” position uses energy to heat the water even though it may never reach the faucet.

- Avoid running the faucet continually while washing hands and dishes, shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Use a dishpan or plug the sink when washing and rinsing dishes.
- Don’t pre-rinse dishes before loading the dishwasher—it just wastes water. Washing dishes by hand with a lot of hot water can cost more than using a dishwasher.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. If washing a small load of clothes, use the appropriate water-level or load-size selection on your clothes washer.
- Wash clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible.
- Lower your water heater’s thermostat to no more than 120 degrees to save energy and increase safety for children.
- Insulate the first six feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to your water heater.



THE REAL COST OF FAUCET DRIPS

How much water does a leaky faucet waste? According to the U.S. Geological Survey, if you have just one leaky faucet in your home that drips 10 times a minute, that’s 14,400 drips and nearly a gallon of water wasted down the drain each day. Over a year, that’s 347 gallons of water—enough for six baths.

Hot water leaks not only waste water, but the energy used to heat the water, too! Fix drips promptly to avoid wasting energy.



Look for the ENERGY STAR when replacing old appliances such as clothes washers, dishwashers and refrigerators. ENERGY STAR qualified appliances use up to 50 percent less energy than standard models, saving you money.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The official ENERGY STAR Web site

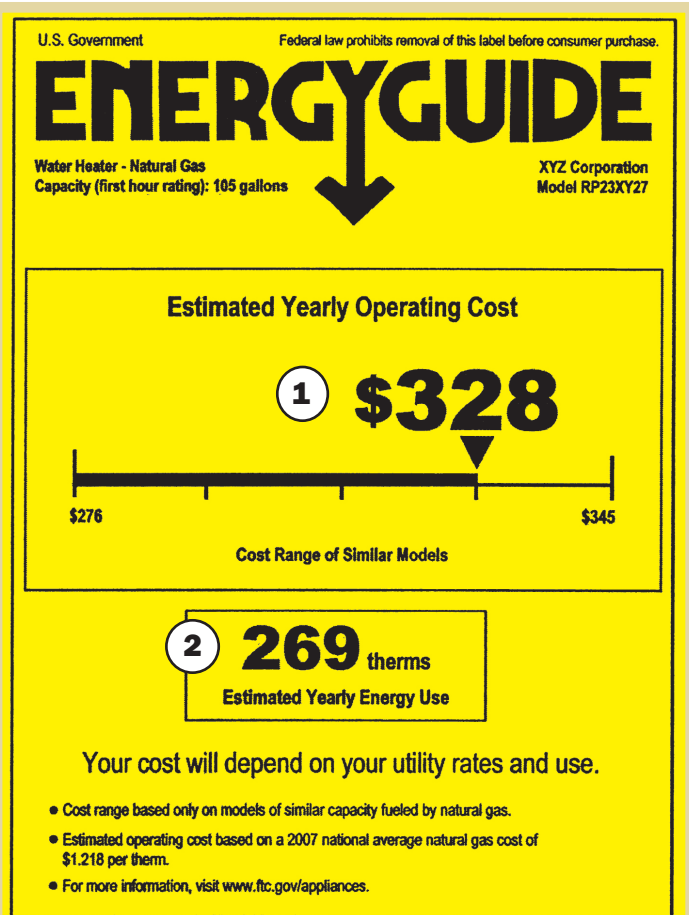
This site provides information about energy efficient appliances, electronics, equipment and buildings that meet ENERGY STAR standards. The “products” pages link to a Savings Calculator you can use to compare operating costs and energy use between ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and standard models.

www.energystar.gov

Focus on Energy

Wisconsin’s energy efficiency and renewable energy program offers ideas, information and financial incentives to help Wisconsin residents and businesses save energy and money.

www.focusonenergy.com 800.762.7077



HOW TO READ AN ENERGYGUIDE

The bright yellow EnergyGuide label helps consumers compare the energy efficiency and yearly operating costs of many appliances, such as clothes washers, dishwashers and water heaters. Use this information to choose high efficiency models that save energy and money.

- 1** Estimated yearly operating cost compared to other similar models.
- 2** Estimated yearly energy use in therms (gas) or kilowatt hours (kWh). The lower the number, the higher the efficiency.

DID YOU KNOW?

In just 20 years, the average single-family household in Wisconsin spends nearly \$8,000 simply to heat water.

Home Energy Plus is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration—Division of Energy Services through a network of county agencies, tribal governments, community-based organizations and utilities. Home Energy Plus consists of the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance program, which provides heating and electric assistance to eligible households, and the Weatherization Assistance program, which offers energy efficiency improvements to help eligible customers save energy and money.

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