

Gas in your home

Gas hot water

The Queensland Government has mandated that all homes built from 1 March 2006 are to have greenhouse efficient water-heating systems. This may be a gas hot water system, a solar water heater or an electric heat pump.

The Sustainable Housing Code legislation offers the opportunity for home owners to use the clean energy provided by gas.

Water heating accounts for approximately 30 per cent of a household's total energy consumption and is therefore a large component of the household energy bill.

Gas hot water systems are inexpensive to purchase and are efficient, reliable and convenient.

There are two basic types of gas water heaters - storage systems and continuous systems. Both types are available in a range of sizes and are suitable for reticulated natural gas and LPG (liquefied petroleum gas).

Storage water heaters

A gas storage system stores heated water in a fully insulated tank, positioned outside your home. There are many styles to choose from with varying features to suit your needs. Storage units have an efficient recovery rate as well as a streamlined design that allows for easy placement and installation.

Continuous systems

A gas continuous system (pictured right) heats water only as required. These units are more compact than their storage counterparts and with convenience and cost effectiveness their key features, they provide a continuous flow of hot water.



Most models also have electronic ignition (i.e. no pilot light) and temperature control, so that you'll only heat the water up to the temperature you select. This avoids wasting costly energy by overheating water and then cooling it down again, as with conventional hot water systems.

Greenhouse friendly

Changing from electric to gas hot water can reduce household greenhouse emissions by around one-third.

A household using a gas cooktop and gas hot water system is one of the most greenhouse-friendly options available. Changing from electric to gas cooking can save around half a tonne of greenhouse emissions per household each year. Cooking with gas also provides instant heat control and is easy, quick and economical.

Purchasing a gas hot water system

If buying a gas hot water system, look at the star rating labels. The more stars on the label, the less gas used and the lower the operating costs. This also means reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

A gas water heater requires installation by a licensed gasfitter. The time to make a decision about replacing your electric water heater with a gas model is before you need it. If you are renovating your home, your bathroom or your kitchen, consider changing to gas. If possible, replace your existing electric water heater at the same time as new gas cooking equipment is installed.

Cooking with gas

Gas is the overwhelming choice of professional chefs, and it's easy to see why. With gas, the heat is more accurate and better controlled; and temperature changes are instantaneous.

Although you might spend less time in the kitchen than a professional chef, you'll still appreciate the advantages of cooking with gas.

Did you know that cooking in a gas oven helps preserve the moisture in your food? The natural convection action of a gas oven seals in moisture as it cooks the food from the outside in.

The addition of a wok burner will bring out the gourmet in you. Gas cooktops are more suitable for specialty uses such as wok cooking because they use an open flame, so you can better observe the flame and control your results.

The design, innovation and efficiency of gas cooktops and ovens has improved dramatically over time. For example, pilotless ignitions have eliminated the need for a constant pilot light and can save as much as 50 per cent in energy use.

Modern gas products feature self-cleaning ovens, sealed surface burners and upswept cooktops for easy cleaning.

But gas provides one other important advantage. Changing from electric to gas cooking can save around half a tonne of greenhouse emissions per household each year.

The advantages of cooking with gas are clear.

Gas clothes dryers

For those cloudy or rainy days when the sun and outdoor clothes line won't work, consider installing a gas clothes dryer.

Clothes dry up to three times faster in a gas clothes dryer compared to electric dryers, reducing drying time and saving you money. A gas clothes dryer will dry approximately two loads of clothes for the same energy cost it takes to dry one load electrically.

A gas clothes dryer cools down faster than an electric dryer which helps prevent wrinkles and means less ironing - saving yet more energy. Clothes come out fluffier and with less static cling.

These are the reasons gas clothes dryers are popular with professional laundries and laundromats.

In addition, gas clothes dryers generate significantly less greenhouse gases compared to their electric counterparts.

While gas clothes dryers usually require a higher first cost to buy and install (as they require both a gas line and vent pipe to the outside), they generally use less energy than electric models and therefore are less expensive to operate.

Whether using an electric or gas clothes dryer, you should clean the filters before and after use and remove accumulated lint from the inside of the drum. You should also turn the clothes dryer off when leaving home or before going to sleep.

Always have a clothes dryer installed and serviced by a professional.