New water heaters same money, energy

Up to 30 percent of your fuel bill normally goes to heat water 450 gallons a week for the average family of four in the United States.

In fact, next to space heating and cooling, water heating is the second largest consumer of energy in most homes.

With this year's heating season upon us, you might heed the advice of experts who tell us that we can save energy and lower our monthly fuel bills by replacing our conventional water heater with a new energy conserving model.

To be called an energy efficient water heater in today's market, a unit must meet or exceed industry standards (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers—ASHRAE Standard 90-75).

Typical of the savings possible with a new, more energy efficient, water heater is the example of the Rheemglas Energy Miser water heaters which meet the standard.

Save \$456 in fuel costs

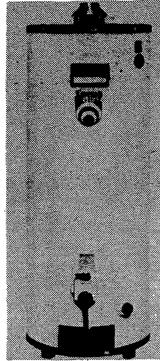
Rheem projects that a 52-gallon electric Energy Miser will save a homeowner \$456 in fuel costs over a 10-year period.

This figure is based on a typical cost for electricity of 5¢ per kilowatt hour (KW-HR), and an annual savings of 912 KW-HR for the 52-gallon model.

Figures used in this story reflect today's typical energy costs. Since most experts are betting that fuel costs will continue to climb. fuel cost savings with an Energy Miser also would increase over its lifetime.

Compared to conventional water heaters, the Rheemglas Energy Miser's combination of a high-efficiency heating element; extra thick insulation and "isolated tank" design heightens heat retention and fuel savings.

This design eliminates metalto-metal contact between the outer jacket and the inner water



Rheem Gas "Energy Miser'
Water Heater

tank, reducing the transfer of heat to the outside (standby heat loss).

Test your water heater

If you think your present water heater is wasting fuel dollars, make this simple test: put your hand against your water heater.

If it feels hot, heat is escaping. You're wasting fuel. Energy Miser water heaters cut this heat loss significantly.

For consumers using gas, a 40-gallon Energy Miser is capable of saving \$128 in fuel costs over ten years.

This figure is based on a typical cost of 24¢ per therm for natural gas consumed and a savings of 53.4 therms per year while heating 450 gallons of water a week. (LP gas models are also available.)

These gas water heaters gain their efficiency through an energy-saving low input pilot which requires one-half of the



Rheem Electric Imperial Energy Miser (cutaway)

BTUs of conventional pilots. Again, thick quality insulation and efficient tank design retard standby heat loss and contribute to energy savings.

Figure your savings

Cost of electricity and gas varies across the nation. If you are curious about exactly how much a new water heater could save you, check your last utility bill

Electricity is measured the KW-HR, gas in therms (one therm is 100 cu. ft. or about 100,000 BTUs). Apply your rates to the number of KW-HRs or therms saved, as noted above in this story, and you will be close

Your local plumber or water heater dealer also is a good source of information on savings possible with the new, more energy efficient water heaters. And, he can tell you about probable installation costs, too.

Quick tips

- One dollar spent on the furnace can save \$50 a year.
- Educated apartment dwellers can force landlords to eliminate excessive utility costs hidden in the rent.
- A hot water drip from the bathroom faucet can fill a cup in 10 minutes and waste 3.260 gallons of water per year.

To heat that water, it took 27 gallons of oil, 1,017 kilowatt hours of electricity or 3,484 cubic feet of natural gas.

All down the drain, and you paid for it and wasted it.

- An air conditioner placed in a sunny window decreases its efficiency, as do dirty filters which should be checked once a month.
- How often have you checked your utility bill against your meter? Computers do make mistakes.
- Ceramic cookware allows you to reduce oven settings by 25° because it retains heat especially well.
- A bath uses three times as much water as a shower.
- When leaving the house for an extended period, pull the plugs on all appliances that will use energy in your absence, such as TVs.

The idea of the "instant-on" in televisions is a misnomer. There is no instant on: the television is always on, wasting energy and money.

• If you buy a solar collector to supply hot water, you can get a federal tax credit and save several thousands of dollars over the next 20 years.

The above tips were culled from a recently published book. It's In Your Power: The Concerned Energy Consumer's Survival Kit (Rawson Wade), by Stuart Diamond and Paul S. Lorris

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