



## Shop Smart Checklist

Follow these easy steps when purchasing and installing a water heater for your home.

- Buy a water heater with a minimum Energy Factor (EF) of .62 to qualify for a rebate through the WARMAdvantage Program.
- Choose a tank size that will efficiently meet your household's hot water needs.
- Locate your new system for easy access and maintenance.
- Make sure your water heater is properly vented.
- Insulate at least the first 15 feet of your hot water pipes.
- Talk to your installer about the maintenance requirements of your new water heating equipment. Have your installer show you how to perform maintenance tasks.
- Consider having a *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR*® assessment conducted on your home. Visit [NJCleanEnergy.com/hp](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/hp) for more details.

Call **866-NJSMART** to find out more ways to save energy, money, and the environment or visit **NJCleanEnergy.com** for more information about *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program*.



## Water Heating Equipment

Your guide to buying a high efficiency water heater



Shop smart with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program*™



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# Water Heating Equipment

Making the right choice

for your home, your family,

and the environment is

easier than you think.

Many times, in emergency situations, water heaters are replaced in haste based solely on storage tank size. And usually, homeowners purchase the same size tank as the previous unit. By preparing yourself with some basic information, you will be able to make an informed decision regarding the best water heater for your home.

## 1. Energy Efficiency

All water heaters have an Energy Factor (EF) rating. The EF measures how efficiently your water heater burns gas. Look for a water heater with an EF of .62 or higher to ensure a high level of efficiency.

## 2. First-Hour Rating (FHR)

The FHR measures how much hot water the unit will deliver during a high-demand hour. Your installer can help you calculate the appropriate FHR to meet your household needs.

## 3. Equipment Capacity

An oversized water heater wastes energy when not in use. Make sure your installer helps you choose a system sized to meet your family's needs.



## Installation and Maintenance

As with any home appliance, installation and proper care of your new water heater will maximize the benefits you'll enjoy.

- Consider choosing a North American Technician Excellence (NATE) certified contractor or a Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified contractor. Visit [eh-cc.org](http://eh-cc.org) for a current list of NATE certified contractors or [NJCleanEnergy.com/hp](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/hp) for a list of BPI certified contractors.
- Like home heating systems, a water heater should be properly vented. New vertical, horizontal, and mechanically generated venting options allow more flexibility when choosing the unit size and location. Ask your plumber or installer to check the venting of your water heater.
- Because sediment from the water can collect in the bottom of the water heater, one bucketful of water should be drained from the bottom of the tank once a month. Ask your installer to demonstrate how this task should be performed.
- Check for leaks around the fittings. If you suspect leakage, contact a licensed plumber to have the leaks sealed.



## WARM Advantage Program

This program is offered through *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program* and provides cash incentives toward the purchase of qualifying, high efficiency residential water heaters. To qualify for a rebate, your water heating equipment should meet the minimum requirements listed in the chart below. Check with your gas company about additional incentives.

	Minimum Efficiency Rating	Incentive
Domestic Water Heater	Energy Factor (EF) .62 or greater	\$25
	Energy Factor (EF) .82 or greater	\$300

As a result of federal stimulus funding, New Jersey homeowners who heat their homes with oil or propane are currently eligible for incentives from *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program*. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding provides rebates up to \$300 for the replacement of existing oil or propane water heaters in homes for current New Jersey residents.

Please visit [NJCleanEnergy.com/warm](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/warm) for full program details or to download an application form. To learn more about increasing your home's energy efficiency, as well as programs that are sponsored by *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program*, visit [NJCleanEnergy.com](http://NJCleanEnergy.com) or call **866-NJSMART**.