

Energy-Efficient Water Heater Tips

Water heating is the third-largest energy expense in your home. It typically accounts for about 13 percent to 17 percent of your utility bill.

Here are some tips for getting the most efficiency from your water heater.

- Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads.
- Repair leaky faucets promptly. A leaky faucet wastes gallons of water in a short period.
- Lower the thermostat on your water heater. Water heaters sometimes come from the factory with high temperature settings, but a setting of 120 degrees F provides comfortable hot water for most uses.
- Insulate your hot water storage tank, but be careful not to cover the thermostat. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Insulate the first 6 feet of the

hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater.

- If you are in the market for a new dishwasher or clothes washer, consider buying an efficient, water-saving Energy Star model to reduce hot water use.
- Install heat traps on the hot and cold pipes at the water heater to prevent heat loss. Some new water heaters have built-in heat traps.
- Drain a quart of water from your water tank every three months to remove sediment that impedes heat transfer and lowers the efficiency of your heater. The type of water tank you have determines the steps to take, so follow the manufacturer's advice. ■

For rebate information on qualified electric water heaters and Energy Star clothes washers and dishwashers, call Klickitat PUD Energy Services Specialist Sharon Ohnstad at (509) 773-7622 or (800) 548-8357 ext. 622.



Insulating your water heater will improve its efficiency. Make sure you don't cover the thermostat when adding insulation.

Photo by Mike Teegarden

Irrigation Meeting Scheduled

Klickitat PUD's annual irrigation customer update will be presented at the Central Klickitat Conservation District's annual meeting on Thursday, February 18, at the Centerville Grange. KPUD's report will be presented at about 9 a.m.

The conservation district office has applied for pesticide credits for its all-day annual meeting.

If you have any questions, call Kathy Loveland at KPUD, (509) 773-7606, or Jim Hill at the conservation district office, (509) 773-5823 ext 5.



Give a Gift That Will Keep On Giving

Having trouble finding that special Valentine's gift? Why not help your family or friends with their high winter heating bills?

Klickitat PUD offers gift certificates that can be included in your Valentine cards, or you can request a confidential contribution be applied directly to someone's PUD account.

This program is available all year, not just on holidays. For more information, call Customer Service at (509) 773-5891, (509) 493-2255 or toll free at (800) 548-8357. ■