

A Word About Water

Is Your Water Heater Wasteful or Wise?

To save money on your power bill, reduce how much hot water you use

It can wake you up, prepare you to face the day, relax you and wash your cares away, clean a whole load of dishes after a big meal—even preserve your home from the potential damage of muddy children.

Hot water is essential and a luxury at the same time, but it can come at a high price if not used wisely.

Klickitat PUD knows how important a reliable hot water supply is to your family, as are your energy dollars.

Water heating is the second-largest user of electricity in the average home. It consumes 15% to 25% of household

energy depending on tank capacity, climate and lifestyle.

The average household uses 3,500 kilowatt-hours of electricity to heat water annually.

Though some components of the cost of electricity are beyond our control, you control one big factor: use.

Your electric bill is based on how much power you use each month, so lowering your bill is easy. It is all about conservation.

You can implement simple, free or low-cost conservation methods to reduce your monthly household electric use. Take action and lower your water-heating costs by following these easy tips:

- Lower your water heater

thermostat setting to 120 F. For each 10-degree reduction in water temperature, you save 3% to 5% in energy costs. Reducing the temperature also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes, promoting longer use and more efficient operation.

- Wash clothes in cold water. Use warm water only when necessary. Cold-water detergents are available, so you don't have to sacrifice cleanliness to save money.

- Install low-flow fixtures.
- Promptly repair leaky faucets and pipes.

- Once a year, drain a bucket of water from the bottom of your water heater. This removes sediment buildup that can waste energy by impeding the water element from heating the water properly.

- Insulate hot water pipes. That reduces heat loss and can raise water temperature 2 degrees to 4 degrees compared with non-insulated pipes. Insulate accessible hot water pipes, especially within 3 feet of the water heater. It is a good idea to insulate the cold-water inlet pipes for the first 3 feet.

- Install a timer and save 5% to 12% on water heater energy. Program the timer to turn off your water heater at night when you do not use hot water.

- Use energy-saving settings on dishwashers, washing machines and dryers.

- Do not leave water running if you wash dishes by hand. Rinse dishes in groups rather than one at a time. ■



Only use warm water for heavily soiled clothes. Cold-water detergents allow you to get your laundry clean and also save money. PHOTO BY COTTONBRO/PEXELS