

Save on water heating and waste water costs.

Water heating accounts for about 20 percent to 30 percent of your annual home energy costs. There are several ways you can manage your water heating costs — without sacrificing your comfort or convenience. An added benefit is that managing hot water may also reduce your waste water costs.

Water Heaters

- At 9 cents per kilowatt hour, water heating will cost the average family about \$1 a day or \$30 a month.
- If your electric water heater starts to fail, contact PGE for expert advice on repair or replacement. See phone number and Web address below.*

TIPS

- Set the electric water heater thermostat(s) to about 120 degrees F. (If you use a dish washer that does not preheat dish washing water, set the thermostats to about 140 degrees, and, as always, be careful to not scald yourself at a faucet.)
- If you won't need hot water for a few days, turn your electric water heater off at the electrical panel. It will take about 2.5 hours to reheat.
- Insulate the 3 feet of hot and cold water pipes closest to the water heater.
- When purchasing a new electric water heater, choose an energy-efficient model. Contact PGE for information on energy-efficient models, retailers and available rebates or loans. See phone number and web address below.

Bathing

- At 9 cents per kilowatt hour, a shower costs about 2 1/2 cents per minute.

TIPS

- When possible, choose a shower instead of a bath. A bath uses twice the hot water.
- Install high-performance showerheads and faucet aerators. New-model shower heads use only 2.5 gallons per minute or less.

Clothes washers

- At 9 cents per kilowatt hour, one clothes washer load (set at hot wash/hot rinse) costs about 62 cents.

TIPS

- Use warm wash/rinse settings. This will reduce the clothes washer load cost to about 18 cents.
- When possible, use cold wash/rinse settings. This will reduce the washing load cost to about 4 cents.
- Don't over-load or under-load the washer.
- 15 minutes of presoaking and 5 minutes of agitation gets clothes cleaner than 15 minutes of agitation.
- When purchasing a new clothes washer, consider a "horizontal-axis" model. It can save up to 1/3 of clothes washing energy costs and water use.
- Look for the Energy Star[®] label on new clothes washers.
- Some new clothes washers are eligible for an Oregon residential tax credit. For details, check www.energy.gov.energy or call 800-221-8035.

Dish washers

- At 6 cents per kilowatt hour, one dishwasher load costs about 24 cents in energy.

TIPS

- If your dishwasher has an "energy-saver" mode, use it.
- Run your dishwasher only when it's full.
- When purchasing a new dish washer, look for the Energy Star label. These models are 13 percent more energy efficient than federal standards.
- Some new dishwashers are eligible for an Oregon residential tax credit. For details, check www.oregon.gov.energy, or call 800-221-8035.

For more information on managing home costs and how to get rebates and tax credits for making your home more energy efficient, call one of PGE's home energy experts, Monday – Friday at 503-612-3500. Or reach us online at PortlandGeneral.com/Energy.

Water Heating

Statistics from the book, "Residential Energy, Cost Savings and Comfort for Existing Buildings," second edition, by John Krigger, published by Saturn Resource Management.

