



Residential solar water heater

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Using solar power for hot water for your home can provide many of the same benefits home solar panels overall. You could save money, be a bit more independent of your utility company, and cut your home's fossil fuel consumption.

It all makes sense since humans have been using the sun to heat water since at least ancient Egypt. Today's solar water heaters use that ancient idea and wrap it in modern technology. Here's a guide to help you see if a solar water heating system, with or without going solar overall, is the right fit for your life and home.

Solar water heaters are a cost-effective way to heat a residential property's water supply with the power of the sun. Most solar water heaters harness the sun's thermal (or heat) energy by directly allowing sunlight to warm an outdoor water supply or by using special solar thermal energy collectors.

It's important to know thermal solar collectors are distinctly different from the photovoltaic (PV) solar energy systems Palmetto supplies homeowners to generate electricity and save on utility power costs.

Although you can heat your water with the electricity generated by PV solar panels (we will get into more detail about this later), self-contained thermal solar water heaters are another great way to go green and save money on monthly energy expenses.

The US Department of Energy estimates, on average, a home water heating bill drops 50-80% by installing a solar water heater. How much you may save depends on multiple factors.

Solar water heating systems come in many shapes and sizes. More than anything, however, the differences between an active and passive solar water heater are important to understand.

Pardon the pun, but knowing how passive and active solar water heater systems work can prevent you from getting into "hot water" later if you invest in the wrong technology for your home or climate.

Passive solar water heating is about as simple as home hot water can get. It is a purely solar-powered water heating system that lacks moving parts, additional energy resources, and significant upfront costs. A typical passive solar water heater consists of not much more than a large rooftop tank (known as a batch collector), where the water is warmed by the sun before flowing into your home's plumbing system.

As far as being environmentally friendly and taking your fuel usage and carbon emissions closer to zero, this is as green as it gets.

Although less effective for controlling the temperature of your hot water than an active system, passive solar



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water heaters are often feasible solutions for warm climate areas that rarely experience below-freezing temperatures. Relying on daily sunshine to heat the water tank, passive solar water heaters are generally better at delivering hot water towards the end of the day, rather than in the morning.

Despite higher costs, active solar water heaters are the most common solar water heating appliances installed in the US because they are much more efficient than passive systems. By definition, active solar water heaters add an "active" element to the water heating process with an electric pump and valve controls to push either water or a heat-exchanging liquid throughout the entire system.

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