

Gas - a hot tip for water heating

Clean energy options for your home

The Queensland Government requires all new homes to have greenhouse efficient water-heating systems, including either a gas hot water system, a solar hot water heater or an electric heat pump.

The Sustainable Housing Code legislation offers the opportunity for home owners to use the clean energy provided by gas.

Hot water heating accounts for 28 percent of a household's total energy consumption in south-east Queensland and is therefore a large component of the household energy bill.

Gas hot water systems are reasonably priced and are efficient, reliable and convenient.

There are two basic types of gas hot water heaters - storage systems and continuous systems.

Both types of systems are available in a range of sizes and are suitable for reticulated natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and LPG cylinders.

Storage water heaters

A storage system stores heated water in a fully insulated tank, positioned outside your home.

Storage units have an efficient recovery rate (water heats up quickly as the tank refills), as well as a streamlined design that allows for easy placement and installation.

Continuous systems

A continuous system heats water only as required. These units are more compact than their storage counterparts and provide hot water on demand.

Most models also have electronic ignition (no pilot light) and temperature control, so that you'll only heat the water up to the temperature you select. This avoids wasting costly energy by overheating water only for it to cool down again, as with conventional hot water systems.



A continuous gas hot water system is an economical and environmentally friendly option for your home

Greenhouse friendly

Changing from electric to gas hot water can reduce greenhouse emissions by around one-third.

A household using both a gas cooktop and a gas hot water system is one of the most greenhouse-friendly. Changing from an electric to gas cooktop can save around half a tonne of greenhouse emissions per household each year.

Purchasing a gas hot water system

If buying a gas hot water system, look at the star rating labels – the more stars (six is best), the less gas used and the lower the operating costs. This also means reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

A gas hot water heater requires installation by a properly trained and licensed gas plumber/fitter. The time to make a decision about replacing your electric hot water heater with a gas model is before you need it.

If you are renovating your home, your bathroom or your kitchen, consider changing to gas. If possible, replace your existing electric hot water heater at the same time as new gas cooking equipment is installed.



Cooking with gas

Instant heat, more control

Gas is the overwhelming choice of professional chefs, and it's easy to see why. With gas, the heat is more accurate and better controlled; temperature changes are instantaneous.

Although you might spend less time in the kitchen than a professional chef, you will still appreciate the advantages of cooking with gas.

Did you know that cooking in a gas oven helps preserve the moisture in your food? The natural convection action of a gas oven seals in moisture as it cooks the food from the outside in.

The addition of a wok burner will bring out the gourmet in you. Gas cooktops use an open flame, allowing you to better observe and control the results. This makes them an ideal choice for specialty cooking, for example asian cooking with a wok.

The design, innovation and efficiency of gas cooktops and ovens have improved dramatically over the years. For example, pilotless ignitions have eliminated the need for a constant pilot light and can save as much as 50 percent of energy use.

Modern gas products feature self-cleaning ovens, sealed surface burners and upswept cooktops for easy cleaning.

But gas provides one other important advantage. Changing from an electric to gas cooktop can save around half a tonne of greenhouse emissions per household each year.

The advantages of cooking with gas are clear.

Gas Distribution

Reticulated Gas

Customers wishing to connect to a reticulated gas network should contact their local gas or energy retailer. The relevant retailer will be able to confirm whether gas is available to your street.



The open flame of gas provides instantaneous heat and accurate and controlled temperatures for cooking.

Natural gas networks currently operate on the Gold Coast, Logan, Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Oakey, Dalby, Roma, Maryborough-Hervey Bay area, Bundaberg, Gladstone, and Rockhampton.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) networks operate in Mooloolaba, Noosa Heads and parts of Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns. LPG networks also operate in some newer housing estates in and around Brisbane.

LPG Cylinders

If you do not have access to reticulated gas, portable LPG cylinders are widely available and are suitable for use with most household appliances.

To find local suppliers, customers should search the Yellow Pages for gas suppliers with cylinder products.

For more information

Find out more about gas in your home by accessing the Department of Mines and Energy's Gas website: www.dme.qld.gov.au/energy/gas.cfm

