



Water heaters are the second highest source of energy usage in the home – and the second most expensive monthly energy cost. Electric water heaters can help you cut costs from installation to reduced monthly energy bills. They are also more efficient and safer than gas water heaters.

To learn about the benefits of going electric or to enroll in the load management program, contact your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative or visit yourcooppower.com today.



**RE-ENERGIZING
EFFICIENCY**

DON'T BE FOOLED

Tankless has its disadvantages

At first, it sounds like a great deal. It only runs when you need it, takes up less space, and promises to be better for the environment. But if you are thinking that installing a tankless water heater is the key to huge savings on your electric bill, be sure to do your research. You may find that the cons outweigh the advantages.

Tankless water heaters come with a high upfront purchase price and installation cost. Installation is not a do-it-yourself project, so the services of a professional electrician will likely be required. Also, since the units create a large draw, or “demand”, for energy the instant they are turned on, it’s a good bet that your electric panel will need to be updated and your service upgraded to handle the increased need for energy.

A tankless water heater has a 20,000 watt element (sometimes higher), which goes to work in full force as soon as you turn on the faucet. In comparison, a standard water heater has two 4,500 watt heating elements, only one of which operates at a time.

From your electric cooperative’s point of view, it is much better for our system to provide power to heat water at a steady load of 4,500 watts than for a 20,000

watt surge of power.

Those surges and spikes of power translate into higher power costs when B-Y Electric purchases power to re-sell to our members.

Other disadvantages include the fact that since tankless water heaters do not keep a supply of hot water “at the ready”, it can take longer to generate and deliver water of the desired temperature. Also, if you want to use hot water at several different points simultaneously (think running the dishwasher and washing machine while you take a shower), chances are good that the tankless water heater will not be able to keep up with your needs.

At B-Y Electric, we do our best to provide you with information to help you make good decisions, save energy, and money. If tankless water heaters were truly a great deal, we would definitely tell you so, and would actively promote them to our members. As it is, we’ll continue to advise a storage tank water heater connected to our load management program as the best solution for you and for the co-op.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater’s temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy *and* help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy