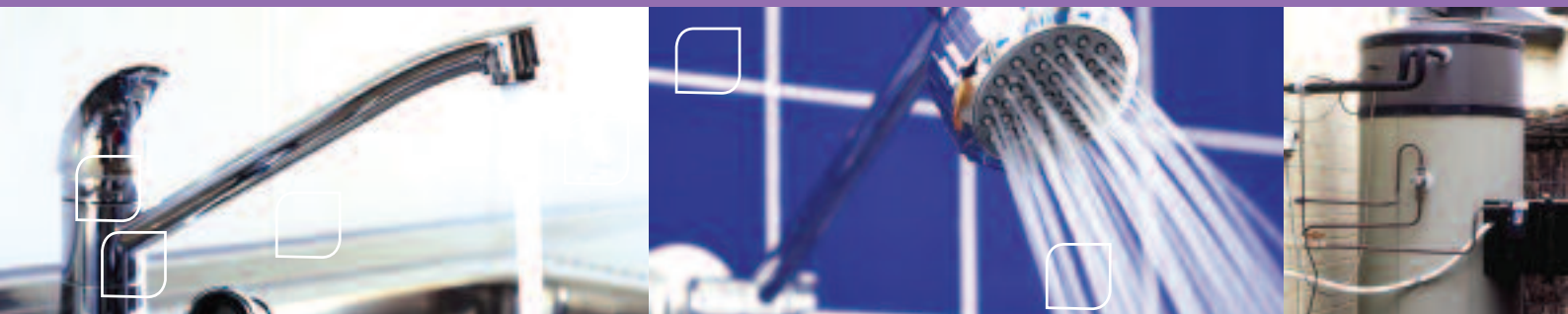


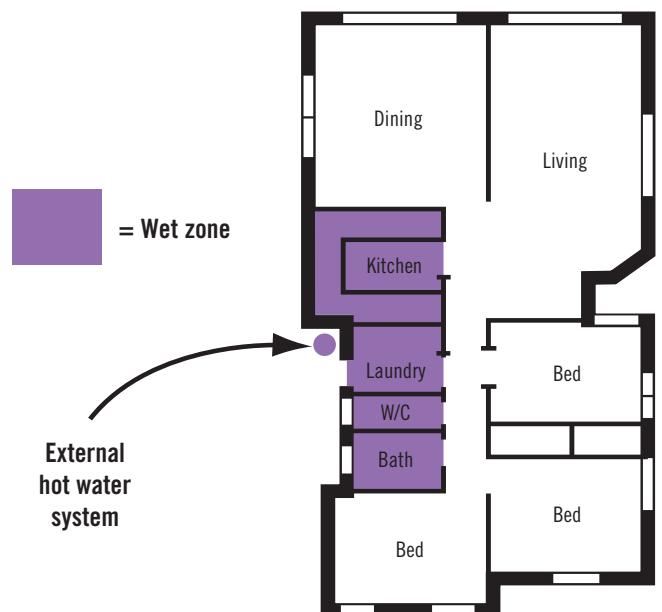
# Hot water hints



**Hot water accounts for up to half of an average household's energy use in NSW. The overall cost of your hot water depends on the type of heater and fuel used, and also on the way the unit is installed and how you use hot water in the home.**

**WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO INSTALL MY HOT WATER SYSTEM?**

Install your system as close as possible to the kitchen, bathroom and laundry, which are the main hot water draw-off points around the home. If this is not possible, install it close to the kitchen, which typically uses small amounts of hot water throughout the day. This helps keep pipe lengths short, minimising installation costs and heat losses from pipes. Keep the hot water system sheltered. This will help reduce heat losses from storage tanks, and will protect any pilot lights from draughts.



## INSTALLING AND RUNNING YOUR SYSTEM FOR OPTIMUM ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Have your system installed by a registered tradesperson, maintain it as required and have it serviced according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- For energy saving and adequate hot water supply, the optimum water temperature for storage hot water systems is between 55-60°C.
- Insulate hot water pipes, especially the first two metres leading from the hot water system. Closed cell rubber insulation is recommended, to keep the insulation dry.
- Install a timer on 'peak-rate' electric storage units.
- Have your plumber rectify any 'water hammer' problems.
- Constant pressure storage tanks boosted by solid fuel heaters should be installed directly above the solid fuel heater to make full use of the natural rise of heated water to supply the tank.
- Regularly activate the relief valves and drain cocks fitted to mains pressure storage systems. These are safety mechanisms to ensure that dangerously high levels of pressure do not build up inside the system. You should activate these two valves about once every three months.
- Check the gas flame in your gas unit. When it is burning efficiently it will be blue. If it is yellow you should have it checked by a service person.
- Turn off electric storage systems connected to general or peak rate whenever you can. They can be very expensive to run.
- Turn off any hot water storage system if you are going away on holidays. Some units have a 'vacation' setting to make this easier.

## HOW TO USE HOT WATER EFFICIENTLY AROUND YOUR HOME

- Fit an AAA rated showerhead. Showering usually makes up over 30% of hot water usage in the home.
- Take a short shower instead of a bath. You could reduce hot water usage and save around \$20 per person per year.
- Insulate around your bath during installation. This helps to keep bath water hotter for longer.
- Fix dripping taps. A tap dripping 45 times per minute wastes around 1000 litres of hot water each month, the equivalent of ten bathtubs or over \$25 per year!
- Use cold water for tasks where hot water is not absolutely necessary, e.g. clothes washing with a suitable cold water detergent. This can mean savings of up to \$20 per year.
- Use a suds-saving facility on your washing machine. This will let you reuse soapy water.
- Only wash with a full load in your washing machine and dishwasher.
- Use cold water to rinse dirty dishes.
- Connect your dishwasher to the cold water pipe. Although it may be more expensive for the unit to heat its own water, part of the wash cycle only requires cold water. If there is a long pipe distance from the storage tank to the washer, hot water may cool before it reaches the washer and therefore the washer will reheat the water to the required temperature. Use the economy cycle on your dishwasher whenever possible.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Telephone the Energy Smart Information Centre: 1300 138 638 or 02 8281 7777 (callers outside NSW)

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Visit [www.energysmart.com.au](http://www.energysmart.com.au)

**The Energy Smart Information Centre is a free advisory service provided by the NSW Government. Energy experts can provide information on a wide range of topics.**