

Gas Hot Water Rebate Guidelines Effective 1 July 2007

The Gas Hot Water Rebate program, administered by Sustainability Victoria, is part of the Victorian Government's commitment to increasing the sustainability of Victoria's energy supply and use.

The Gas Hot Water Rebate program provides rebates for the purchase and installation of natural gas and LPG water heaters (5 star energy rated) in households that currently use a peak (day-rate) electric water heater.

What is a peak electric water heater?

A peak (day-rate) electric water heater is **ineligible** for an off-peak tariff and uses peak electricity to heat water. Typically, they are small internal water heaters (less than 160 litres) and located inside a cupboard.

If you have a peak (day-rate) electric hot water system your electricity bill will have **no reference** to 'off-peak' electricity. This must be checked before proceeding with the rebate.

How much is the rebate?

The rebate is a point-of-sale discount and is only available from participating retailers. A list of the participating retailers is available on the ResourceSmart website or by calling the hotline on 1300 366 195.

Rebates of up to \$1000 are available to switch to 5 star natural gas and LPG water heaters. The amount of the rebate is as follows:

\$400 – minimum 5 star instantaneous and storage hot water systems (4 star for internal systems only)

For Concession Card Holders

\$700 – minimum 5 star instantaneous and storage hot water systems (4 star for internal systems only)

For Installation

\$300 – A further installation rebate is available if you live in a flat or apartment where there is a separate occupancy directly above or below you.

The installation rebate is in consideration of the higher cost of installing gas plumbing in these properties generally known as Class 2 type buildings.

Who is eligible for a rebate?

- > Households must not already have a second water heater installed anywhere in the house that is fuelled by off-peak electricity or gas.
- > Households must demonstrate that their current electric water heater does not use an off-peak electricity tariff. A copy of the **electricity bill** is used to demonstrate which tariff is used for hot water.
- > The rebate is available for properties that are a principal place of residence only. It is also available for rental properties, where the property is available for commercial rental and the occupant/lessee is directly responsible for the energy bills.
- > Landlords are able to access the higher rebate amount where the tenant is a concession card holder and the tenant is directly responsible for the energy bills. A copy of the concession card will be required.

Which water heater can be installed?

Only storage water heaters with a minimum 5 star energy rating and instantaneous systems with minimum 5 star ratings (or minimum 4 star for internal systems) are eligible for a rebate.

See the latest update of eligible water heaters online at the ResourceSmart website. They are all high efficiency water heaters. The retailer should advise you on the correct size of water heater required to meet the needs of the household.

Obtaining the rebate

The rebate is provided as a point-of-sale discount by participating retailers. A list of those retailers is available online. The list is updated as new retailers join.

Rebates must be authorised before installation is undertaken.

The process is undertaken in a number of steps:

1. Assess eligibility

You can self assess your eligibility on the ResourceSmart website and the retailer will also check your eligibility. Either way, you will need to bring in a copy of the property's electricity bill (and concession card if appropriate) to the retailer.

2. If you are eligible the retailer will ask you to sign to confirm eligibility details.

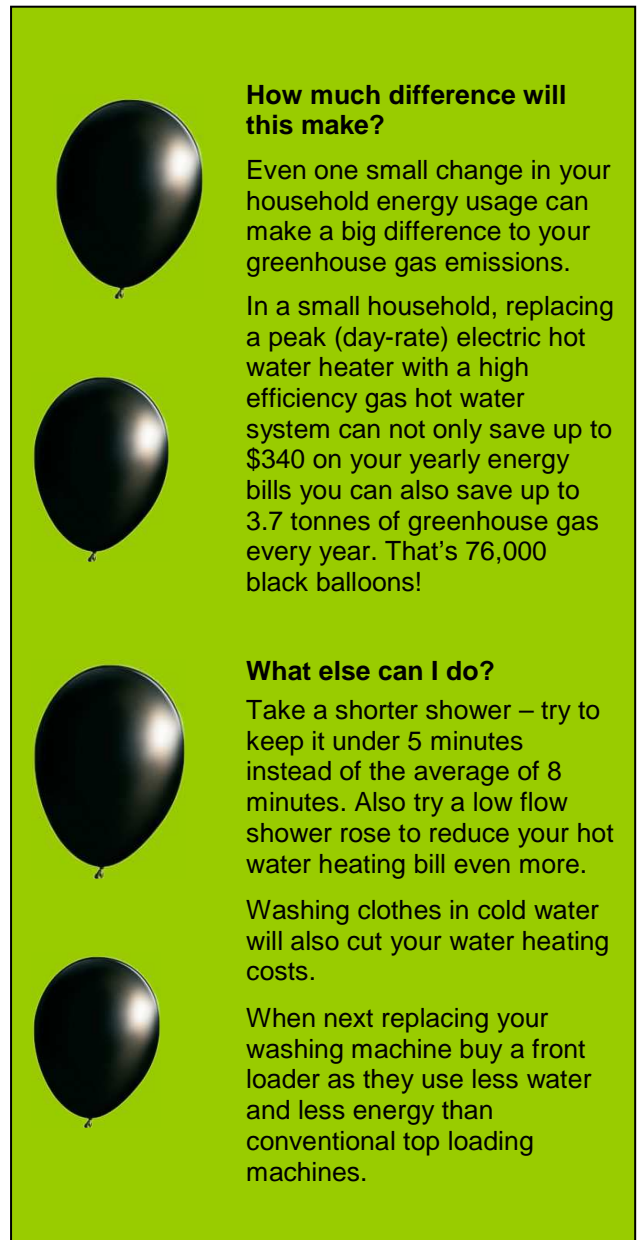
3. The retailer must arrange installation within six weeks of authorisation. The installer will visit and check eligibility onsite before installing the appliance. The customer will need to sign the Installation Form and the Gas, Electricity and Water Consent Forms to allow Sustainability Victoria to access their energy use information from their bills. The installer will provide a Certificate of Compliance.

4. The retailer invoice will have the cost of the water heater and the installation plus GST less the amount of the rebate. i.e. GST is payable on the full cost.

5. Sustainability Victoria will reimburse the retailer for the rebate given once the correctly completed forms are returned.

If the retailer does not obtain an authorisation number before installation or the forms are not correctly completed the rebate will not be paid.

For further information please call 1300 366 195 or visit the ResourceSmart website.



How much difference will this make?

Even one small change in your household energy usage can make a big difference to your greenhouse gas emissions.

In a small household, replacing a peak (day-rate) electric hot water heater with a high efficiency gas hot water system can not only save up to \$340 on your yearly energy bills you can also save up to 3.7 tonnes of greenhouse gas every year. That's 76,000 black balloons!

What else can I do?

Take a shorter shower – try to keep it under 5 minutes instead of the average of 8 minutes. Also try a low flow shower rose to reduce your hot water heating bill even more.

Washing clothes in cold water will also cut your water heating costs.

When next replacing your washing machine buy a front loader as they use less water and less energy than conventional top loading machines.

Right reserved by Sustainability Victoria

Sustainability Victoria may decide in its sole and absolute discretion whether a water heater installation is eligible for a rebate or not.

Sustainability Victoria reserves the right to inspect the installation at any time within the first five years of operation.

Sustainability Victoria reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion and at any time, to change any or all of these Gas Hot Water Rebate Program Guidelines.

Indemnity

The applicant acknowledges that neither the Victorian Government nor Sustainability Victoria nor any of their authorised representatives accept any liability in respect of any claim or cause of action arising out of, or in relation to, any water heater that is the subject of funding assistance. The applicant agrees that they will indemnify and keep indemnified the Victorian Government and Sustainability Victoria for any claim or liability arising out of, or in relation to, the water heater that is the subject of this application.

Privacy statement

Sustainability Victoria collects your personal information for the purpose of administering Rebate programs. We only disclose your personal information if it is necessary for the performance of our functions. If you wish to seek access to the personal information which Sustainability Victoria holds about you, please contact us by writing to: General Manager, Community and Customer Services, Sustainability Victoria, Level 28, Urban Workshop, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000.

Sustainability Victoria's privacy policy is available from www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au