

NATURAL GAS WATER HEATERS: THE PREFERRED CHOICE



When you choose natural gas water heaters, you're making a wise decision for greater cost-savings, the environment and comfort.

Lower operating costs

Natural gas is simply a better value – even when considering the operating costs. The chart below illustrates the cost difference between a comparable natural gas and electric water heater.

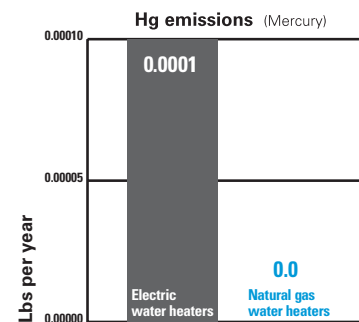
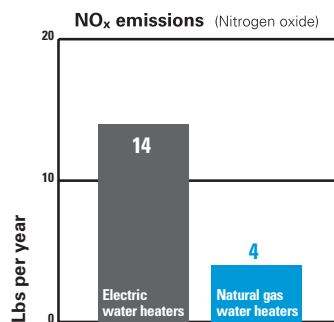
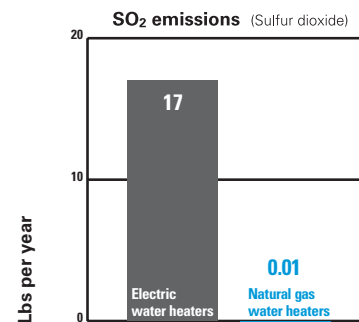
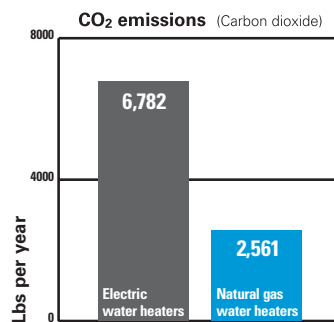
Operating cost comparisons: Save by choosing natural gas		
Usage	Electric water heater (0.93 EF)	Natural gas water heater (0.62 EF)
Equivalent annual energy output in Btu	13.5 MM Btu	13.5 MM Btu
Annual energy input in kWh or Therms	4,253	218
Annual operating cost*	\$404	\$185
Annual savings with a natural gas water heater = 54% or \$219		

*Using \$0.85/Therm natural gas and \$0.095/kWh electricity prices, trued up to include all delivery and cost adjustment charges.

Go green: Environmental benefits

When you choose a natural gas water heater, you are choosing the most efficient and clean-burning fuel to heat your water. Natural gas burns cleaner than electricity, releasing:

- Significantly less carbon dioxide (a major greenhouse gas)
- Almost no sulfur dioxide (a key cause of acid rain and haze)
- Less than one-third the amount of nitrogen oxides (the primary cause of smog)
- Zero mercury emissions (a common cause of contamination in fish)



• Electric emissions: Minnesota 2005 State Average Emissions; EPA eGrid, Analysis, April 2008.

• Gas emissions: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – AP42 Emission Factors, 1995.

In Minnesota, if your water heater is at the off-peak electric rate, the emissions released will be higher than the graph shown above because off-peak electricity is primarily generated from coal-based power plants.

Say “no” to running out of hot water: Fast recovery

Natural gas water heaters recover twice as fast as electric models to refill and make hot water available. If you find that a 50-gallon natural gas water heater will meet your needs, remember that you will almost always need an 80-gallon electric model to achieve the same first hour hot water delivery needs during peak times, such as in the morning when many family members take showers.

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