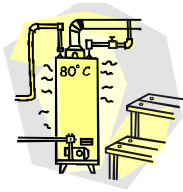


Florence Energy News

ELECTRIC WATER

HEATER FACTS

Why buy an energy-efficient electric water heater? Water heating is typically the second-largest energy expense in your home, after space heating and cooling. It usually accounts for about 14 percent of your utility bill. If your gas water heater is more than 10 years old, it probably has an efficiency level no higher than 50 percent. An old water heater can operate for years at very low efficiency before it finally fails.



If it is time to replace your water heater, check out the purchasing tips below before you buy. Also, Florence Utilities provides cash rebates on new replacement electric water heaters. Keep your sales receipt and call **740-6055** for more details.

NEW WATER HEATER PURCHASING TIPS

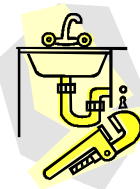
Although many consumers buy water heaters based only on the size of the storage tank, the first-hour rating (FHR), provided on the Energy Guide label is actually more important. The FHR is a measure of how much hot water the heater will deliver during a busy hour. A larger tank does not necessarily mean a higher FHR. When you buy a water heater, estimate your household's peak-hour demand and look for a unit with an FHR in that range.

If you live in a moderate climate consider a more efficient heat-pump water heater (HPWH). Although a HPWH may have a high initial cost, it can save up to 50 percent on your water heating bill.

For energy efficiency as well as safety, when buying gas or oil-fired water heaters, look for units with sealed combustion or power venting to avoid back-drafting of combustion gases into the home.

Everything else being equal, select a water heater with the highest energy factor (EF), the measure of a water heater's efficiency. EF is based on recovery efficiency, standby losses, and cycling losses. The higher the EF, the more efficient the water heater. Electric-resistance water heaters have an EF ranging from 0.7 to 0.95; gas water heaters from 0.5 to 0.6, with a few high-efficiency models at around 0.8; oil water heaters from 0.7 to 0.85; and heat-pump water heaters from 1.5 to 2.0.

Whenever possible, do not install the water heater in an unheated basement. Also try to minimize the length of the pipes that run to your bathroom and kitchen.



Extended warranties and new energy-efficient designs are features to look for when shopping for a water heater. Many water heaters have eight to 10-year

warranties, and some are warranted not to leak for as long as you own your home. For more rebate details contact Florence Utilities at 740-6055.

Information provided by TVA's web site at <http://www.energyright.com/waterheat/index.htm>

ELECTRIC METER

CHANGE-OUT PROGRAM

Florence Utilities has recently begun an electric meter change-out program to test, remove, and replace electric meters. All meters are changed out on a continuing basis.



More than 39,000 residential electric meters are maintained, and our ongoing change-out maintenance cycle lasts about 10 years. Therefore it may be quite a while until your meter is scheduled to be replaced. We want you to be aware of this program in case you notice a Florence Utilities truck or employee in your driveway or around your meter at a nonscheduled time of the month.

Florence Utilities strives to provide our customers with the best utility service. Please do not hesitate to contact our Customer Service Department at **760-6512** with any questions you may have about this program or about services we provide.

CITY OF FLORENCE

TREE BALLOT

The Mayor's Office and the Florence Tree Commission are seeking assistance in the selection of a tree species that will represent the City of Florence. The tree species selected will become the official tree of the City. All selections provided are native to this area, locally available, and will grow well in Florence.



We invite the public to help us make our final decision by completing and mailing the ballot below. Votes are restricted to individual residents within the city limits of Florence.

.....

Name -----

Address -----

Make One Choice Only

Bald Cypress -----

Red Maple -----

Shumard Oak -----

.....

Ballot Mailing Address
Florence Tree Commission
P O Box 98, Florence, AL 35631-0098

.....

The deadline for your ballot entry is October 1, 2007. Official ballots are available at the Mayor's Office, 760-6400, Urban Forestry Office, 760-6314, or on the web at www.florenceal.org.

We appreciate your participation.

August - September Calendar of Events

- August** **Music in the Park**
Location: Wilson Park
Hours: 6 pm - 8 pm Thursday
Admission: Free
Contact: 760-9648
- Aug. 14. - Sep. 24** **Paintings by Jason Saunders**
Location: Kennedy-Douglass Center
Hours: 9 am - 4 pm Monday - Friday
Admission: Free
Contact: 760-6379
- Sept. 14 - 17** **Trail of Tears Remembrance**
 Motorcycle Ride
Ride will take place September 15
Location: Ride ends at McFarland Park
Hours: Various
Contact: 1-877-868-8747
 www.trailoftears-remembrance.org
- Sept. 18 - 23** **North Alabama State Fair**
Location: North Alabama State Fairgrounds
Hours: 6 pm - Midnight Tuesday - Friday
 Noon - Midnight Saturday - Sunday
Admission: Various
Contact: 383-3247
 www.northalabamastatefair.org

ATTENTION
FLORENCE UTILITIES WILL BE CLOSED
THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY
SEPTEMBER 3 LABOR DAY

Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

Water heating is typically the second-largest energy expense in your home, after space heating and cooling. It usually accounts for about 14 percent of your utility bill. If it is time to replace your water heater, first check out the purchasing tips inside. Florence Utilities provides cash rebates on new replacement electric water heaters. For more rebate information please call **740-6055**.

To help better serve our customers Florence Utilities has recently begun an electric meter change-out program to test, remove, and replace electric meters. To learn more about this ongoing maintenance program look over the article inside this issue.

The Mayor's Office and the Florence Tree Commission are seeking assistance in the selection of a tree species that will represent the City of Florence. Please take time to complete the ballot included in this issue and submit your vote. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

www.florenceutilities.com