



# The Basics

## Heat Pump Water Heater

Electric water heaters that use heat pump technology are more efficient, safer, and cleaner than gas options. A heat pump water heater (**HPWH**), sometimes called a hybrid electric water heater, pulls the heat from surrounding air and transfers it to water in an enclosed tank. Heat pump technology, popular since the 1960's, uses very little energy to operate because the pump moves heat, rather than creating heat via gas combustion.

### ? Why should I choose a HPWH?

- **Save money** HPWHs are the most energy efficient water heaters on the market using less energy and reducing your monthly utility bill.
- **Cleaner** Switching from gas to a HPWH will eliminate almost 50% of the emissions produced in your home – a big improvement to your home's air quality.
- **Safer** An improperly installed or poorly vented gas water heater could leak carbon monoxide in your home, potentially causing carbon monoxide poisoning

### 🕒 When is the best time to install?

- **During a remodel or new construction.** Most HPWHs require a dedicated 30-amp, 240V circuit. However, "plug-and-play" HPWHs are now available, some of which can operate on as little as a 15-amp, 120V shared circuit. Planning a HPWH installation during your remodel or new construction will allow your contractor to plan accordingly.
- **Immediately if your existing water heater uses propane.** Propane is more expensive than SVCE-provided electricity. If you switch to a HPWH you will see immediate savings and improve air quality and safety in your home.
- **Immediately if your current water heater is an electric resistance unit.** You will see about a 70% savings when you switch to a HPWH.
- **Before your existing water heater fails.** Most water heaters last between 8-12 years. Determine how old your water heater is and replace it before it fails - don't risk being without hot water.

### 🔧 What should I do next?

- **Work with a contractor experienced with HPWHs.** A proper installation includes connecting the heat pump to your main electric service panel as well as capping the existing gas line that was serving your previous gas water heater.
- **Review the** HPWH Best Practices Guide. It covers everything from what to consider when buying a HPWH to tips on how to get the most out of your HPWH.
- **Visit the Appliances Assistant.** Here, you can compare options and efficiency scoring, and read customer reviews. Also, you'll find service professionals to do the installation.