

The Many Benefits of Electric Water Heaters

If you are looking for a great option for your domestic hot water, now would be the time to consider a highly efficient electric water heater. There are considerations, other than fuel costs, when deciding what type of water heater is best for your home. Let us provide you with multiple reasons why an electric water heater is better than gas.

Safety: Your chances of an explosion from a gas leak are far greater than an electrocution from faulty wiring. Carbon monoxide poisoning is an issue that can be created by burning gas along with the ability of gas combustion to expel added moisture that could contribute to molds and other airborne pathogens.

Cost to Purchase: Electric water heaters cost less to purchase and install than gas since there is no need for ventilation such as a flue. With Midland Power's reduced member pricing for our Marathon water heater, the upfront cost for an electric water heater is much more affordable and will offset the long-term cost of operation when comparing to gas.

Efficiency: Although gas can potentially be a cheaper fuel source, electric is much more efficient. Highly efficient electric water heaters come with an energy factor of around 90 - 95. This means that 90 – 95% of the energy required to operate is actually used to heat the water. The energy factor for a gas unit is more like 65 -70% which means that 30 – 35% of the energy is lost to combustion and expelled through the exhaust flue. So, gas systems may be a little less expensive to operate but a huge majority of the energy is lost. This lost energy is expelled as carbon monoxide that can contribute to more carbon released into the atmosphere.

Life Expectancy: Because electric water heaters require and use fewer parts, and subject these parts to less direct heat, the lifespan of your electric water heater should far exceed a gas unit. Marathon water heaters supplied by Midland Power carry a lifetime warranty for the tank for leaks. In a sense, this electric water heater should be the last you will have to buy.

Many Gas Water Heaters Require Electricity: Many gas water heaters use electronic ignitions to light the pilot so when the power goes out, so does your hot water.

Space Requirements: Gas water heaters require 6-18 inches of space ventilation around all sides and top of the tank which means you could be hampered by space. Electric water heaters offer many sizes.

Accessibility of Parts/ Service: Since Midland Power offers the Marathon electric water heater to our members, we also carry all required parts and will cover any warranties involved with the tank. We can also work with you and local contractors for service work.

Adaptability with Renewables: There is more and more interest in incorporating renewable energy into our homes. Electric water heaters installed in conjunction with a geothermal heating and cooling system can greatly reduce your hot water heating costs. The geothermal system can transfer any excess heat produced by the system to the electric water heater. This can result in a reduction of domestic water heater costs by 50 – 70%. A solar array can easily be connected into an electric water heater which can help to reduce water heating costs by generating some of the needed electricity.

Midland Power Incentive Programs: Midland Power offers a number of incentive programs for members choosing to install highly efficient HVAC systems. The addition of an electric water heater installation can possibly add to the availability of additional rebates and incentive programs that will put money back into your pocket.

As you can see, an electric water heater includes benefits beyond initial cost of operation. Midland Power is committed to offering programs and products that ultimately benefit our members. There are multiple reasons to consider an electric water heater over gas. It is believed that these benefits far outweigh the few benefits of a gas water heater.

Visit www.midlandpower.coop for more information on our Marathon electric water heater as well as other programs that can benefit you, our member.