

# Smarter & Greener Natural Gas Water Heating

# NEWS TO USE

February 2011

Water heating can account for 14% to 25% of the energy consumed in your home. Two of the more popular types of water heaters are storage and tankless. When selecting your water heater consider their features and how they will fit your lifestyle to get the most energy savings.

## STORAGE TANK WATER HEATING FEATURES

- ▶ Low initial cost
- ▶ No electricity required
- ▶ No minimum flow requirements

## TANKLESS WATER HEATING FEATURES

- ▶ Continuous hot water
- ▶ Compact, space saving
- ▶ Eliminates standby loss

### Better Performance

When compared to electric water heaters, natural gas heats water twice as fast. Quick recovery time means you can have hot water when you need it, and in most instances at a lower cost.

### Naturally Greener

Using an ENERGY STAR® qualified gas water heater can save an additional \$30 a year in energy costs. Plus, natural gas water heaters emit less carbon compared to electric water heaters.

### The Smarter Solution

When you add up all the benefits, including the benefit that natural gas is the cleanest-burning fossil fuel, natural gas is the smart solution for your water heating needs.

## Water Heating and Other Winter Energy Saving Tips

- Set the water heater thermostat to 120°F for most uses. Set to “vacation” mode when away for one week or more.
- Use low-flow showerheads and faucets.
- Insulate exposed hot water pipes.
- Set your heating and air conditioning thermostat between 65-68°F during the winter months, health permitting, and save about 1% on your heating bill for each degree you lower your thermostat.
- Inspect your home for cool drafts, which may come from cracks or gaps in walls, ceilings, and around window and doors. Weatherstrip, spray foam or caulk as needed.
- Wash full loads in your dishwasher and washing machines to save energy and money.

Call the Energy Specialists  
1-800-654-2765

or visit us at

[www.swgas.com](http://www.swgas.com)

for information for contractor referrals,  
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# Earned Income

## Tax Credit

If you earned less than \$43,352 (individual), or \$48,362 (married) last year, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) will work for you. EITC is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families, and could pay you as much as \$5,666, depending upon number of qualifying children.

To qualify, a taxpayer must meet certain eligibility guidelines and file a tax return.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer FREE tax assistance to low to moderate-income taxpayers, and are often located in convenient community locations.

For more information about the EITC and how to get FREE tax filing help, visit the IRS Web site, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), keyword: EITC, or call **1-800-829-1040**.



Taxes  
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## Save Time. Save Trees.

While you may already pay your bills online, there are even more ways you can help keep the sky blue and the planet green.

Sign up for **Paperless Billing** through MyAccount. Paperless Billing provides the added convenience of receiving e-mail reminders when a bill is due. You can also make a payment from your checking or savings account without a service fee.

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