

Gas vs. Electric, Which water heater is best for you

Money may be saved by installing an electric tankless water heater, but down the line, when you factor in natural resource costs of gas and electricity, gas is cheaper. The choice between the installation of a gas or electric tankless water heater should not be determined on money and efficiency, whereas more on space limitations.

An electric tankless water heater offers longer life, little maintenance and cheaper installation costs without an electrical service upgrade whereas, a gas requires an annual inspection. Electric tankless are about 1/3 the size of a gas heater requiring no ventilation and can be placed in areas not feasible for gas tankless water heaters.

For an electric system, unless an upgrade is required, the installation is considerably cheaper than that of a gas heater. Yet, if you are comparing operating costs, the gas tankless can cost you up to 20% less to operate than an electric water heater.

In regards to energy consumption, the electric tankless water heater is proven to have more than 98% of the energy used to heat water. A gas tankless water heater provides less than 85% and also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Depending on the amount of usage, the installation of a timer can cut electric costs by consuming less energy.

Tank or tankless, the comparison can be evaluated on individual factors and life expectancy. A tankless water heater has an expected life span of 14-18 years, whereas, a standard heater lasts 6-12 years depending on the level of water hardness and amount of maintenance performed.