EnergyGuide Labels

The Federal government requires that appliance manufacturers provide information about the energy efficiency of their products to consumers so that they can compare the life cycle cost of the appliances, as well as the purchase price. The life cycle cost of an appliance is the purchase price plus the operating cost over the projected life of the appliance.

The law requires that manufacturers place EnergyGuide labels on all new refrigerators, freezers, water heaters, dishwashers, clothes washers, room air conditioners, central air conditioners, heat pumps, furnaces, and boilers. The EnergyGuide labels list the manufacturer, the model, the capacity, the features, the amount of energy the appliance will use a year on average, its comparison with similar models, and the estimated yearly energy cost.

For refrigerators, freezers, water heaters, dishwashers, and clothes washers, the labels compare energy consumption in kWh/year or therms/year. For room air conditioners, central air conditioners, heat pumps, furnaces, and boilers, the rating is not in terms of energy consumption, but in energy efficiency ratings, as follows:

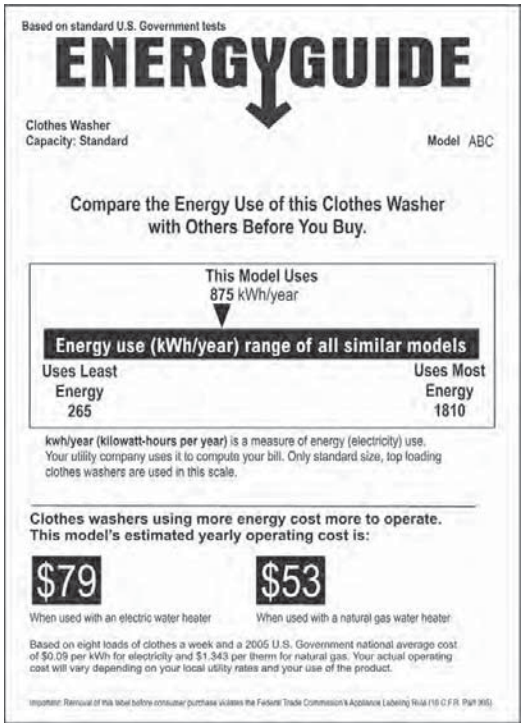
EER: **Energy Efficiency Rating** (room air conditioners)

SEER: **Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating** (central air conditioners)

HSPF: **Heating Season Performance Factor** (with SEER heat pumps)

AFUE: **Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency** (furnaces and boilers)

Clothes washer: To the right is an EnergyGuide label from an average energy-using clothes washer. Notice how much more it costs to run the washer if you have an electric water heater than if you have a natural gas water heater.


Based on standard U.S. Government tests

ENERGYGUIDE

Clothes Washer
Capacity: Standard

Model ABC

Compare the Energy Use of this Clothes Washer with Others Before You Buy.

This Model Uses
875 kWh/year

Energy use (kWh/year) range of all similar models

Uses Least Energy
265

Uses Most Energy
1810

kwh/year (kilowatt-hours per year) is a measure of energy (electricity) use. Your utility company uses it to compute your bill. Only standard size, top loading clothes washers are used in this scale.

Clothes washers using more energy cost more to operate. This model's estimated yearly operating cost is:

$79 When used with an electric water heater

$53 When used with a natural gas water heater

Based on eight loads of clothes a week and a 2005 U.S. Government national average cost of $0.09 per kWh for electricity and $1.343 per therm for natural gas. Your actual operating cost will vary depending on your local utility rates and your use of the product.

Important: Removal of this label before consumer purchase violates the Federal Trade Commission's Appliance Labeling Rule (16 C.F.R. Part 305).

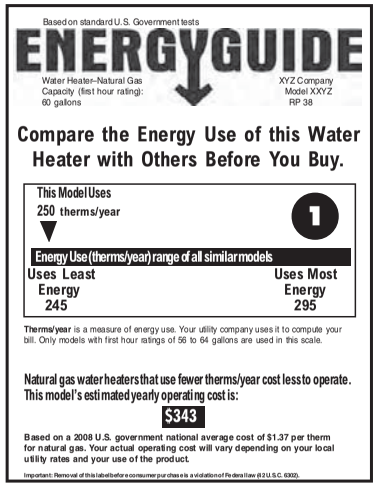
Comparing Appliances

Your family needs to buy a new water heater. Water heaters usually last a long time—10 years or more—so you can save a lot of money on an energy efficient one. Use the chart below to figure out which water heater to buy, comparing the information on the EnergyGuide labels.

- **How many years will it take before you begin to save money?**
- **How much money will you have saved after seven years?**

Water Heater 1: Purchase Price: $375.00 **Water Heater 2: Purchase Price: $250.00**

WATER HEATER 1	EXPENSES	COST TO DATE	WATER HEATER 2	EXPENSES	COST TO DATE
Purchase Price			Purchase Price		
Year One			Year One		
Year Two			Year Two		
Year Three			Year Three		
Year Four			Year Four		
Year Five			Year Five		
Year Six			Year Six		
Year Seven			Year Seven		


Based on standard U.S. Government tests

ENERGYGUIDE

Water Heater–Natural Gas
Capacity (first hour rating): 60 gallons

XYZ Company
Model XXYZ
RP 38

Compare the Energy Use of this Water Heater with Others Before You Buy.

This Model Uses
250 therms/year

1

Energy Use (therms/year) range of all similar models

Uses Least Energy
245

Uses Most Energy
295

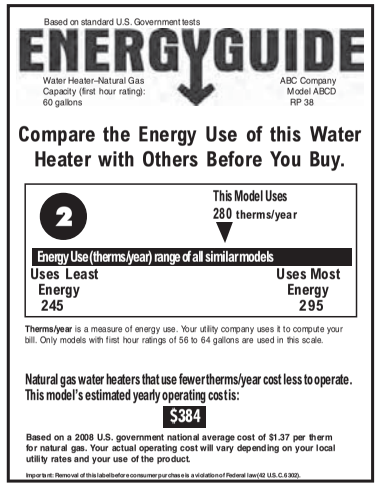
Therms/year is a measure of energy use. Your utility company uses it to compute your bill. Only models with first hour ratings of 56 to 64 gallons are used in this scale.

Natural gas water heaters that use fewer therms/year cost less to operate. This model's estimated yearly operating cost is:

$343

Based on a 2008 U.S. government national average cost of $1.37 per therm for natural gas. Your actual operating cost will vary depending on your local utility rates and your use of the product.

Important: Removal of this label before consumer purchase is a violation of Federal law (42 U.S.C. 6302).


Based on standard U.S. Government tests

ENERGYGUIDE

Water Heater–Natural Gas
Capacity (first hour rating): 60 gallons

ABC Company
Model ABCD
RP 38

Compare the Energy Use of this Water Heater with Others Before You Buy.

2

This Model Uses
280 therms/year

Energy Use (therms/year) range of all similar models

Uses Least Energy
245

Uses Most Energy
295

Therms/year is a measure of energy use. Your utility company uses it to compute your bill. Only models with first hour ratings of 56 to 64 gallons are used in this scale.

Natural gas water heaters that use fewer therms/year cost less to operate. This model's estimated yearly operating cost is:

$384

Based on a 2008 U.S. government national average cost of $1.37 per therm for natural gas. Your actual operating cost will vary depending on your local utility rates and your use of the product.

Important: Removal of this label before consumer purchase is a violation of Federal law (42 U.S.C. 6302).