

Tankless Water Heater Buying Guide.



PLUMBING
HEATING
COOLING
ELECTRICAL



What is a Tankless Water Heater?

A tankless water heater consists of a small unit that is mounted to your wall. It heats water immediately as it passes through a heat exchanger, removing the need for a storage tank. While a traditional tank water heater stores hot water for later use, a tankless doesn't require storage for water to be heated.

Tankless water heaters heat water on demand, so there is no storage and no wasted energy. They offer an endless supply of hot water. The most common tankless water heaters in the Albuquerque and Santa Fe area are gas-fueled. You should talk to a professional plumber about the best option for your home.

HOW TANKLESS WATER HEATERS WORK

When you turn on the hot water tap in your home, cold water travels through a heat exchanger in the water heater. As the water travels through the heat exchanger, a gas burner or electric element heats the water. Because of this "on demand" style of heating water, you will have a constant supply of hot water through your home's faucets.



FUEL TYPES

Gas Tankless Water Heaters

In most cases (especially in our area) we see gas water heaters. You'll likely be moving from a gas tank water heater to a gas tankless water heater. Gas tankless heaters in New Mexico can be up to 40% more efficient than traditional water heaters.

Electric Tankless Water Heaters

These units require additional amps to heat the water. In our area, electrical tankless water heaters are not a cost effective option, especially since gas is readily available at a lower cost.



Tank vs. Tankless

TANK



✓ PROS

LOWER INSTALLATION COST

Tank water heaters are less expensive to install than tankless.

EASY REPLACEMENT

You typically replace the tank for the same-sized unit.

LESS INTERNAL PARTS

A tank water heater has only a few functioning parts.

HIGH-EFFICIENCY TANK OPTIONS

Many manufacturers offer high efficiency units.

✗ CONS

HIGHER ENERGY COSTS

Water in the tank is heated whether or not it's needed, leading to constant fuel usage.

CAN RUN OUT OF HOT WATER

Once the hot water tank is emptied, you will not have hot water until the tank refills and reheats.

TAKES UP MORE SPACE

Tankless units take relatively little space, while a tank water heater requires more space.

SHORTER LIFE SPAN

Tank water heaters usually last between 12-15 years.

TANKLESS



✓ PROS

ENDLESS HOT WATER

Extremely effective for larger families or high water needs.

LOWER ENERGY COSTS

Tankless water heaters only use fuel when hot water is needed.

TAKES UP LESS SPACE

Tank water heaters that meet energy standards have increased in size. This alone may have you considering going tankless.

LONGER LIFE SPAN

Well-maintained tankless water heaters can last 20+ years.

✗ CONS

MORE INTERNAL PARTS

Tankless water heaters have more internal parts and require maintenance at least once a year to ensure proper operation. If you have hard water, the manufacturer may require a water softener system to prevent scale buildup on the tankless components.

HIGHER INSTALLATION COSTS

There may be retrofitting and additional plumbing/piping needed. Discuss your options with a professional plumber.



Tank Water Heaters

Other Things To Consider

In 2015 the Department of Energy mandated higher Energy Factor (EF) ratings on virtually all residential gas, electric, oil and tank water heaters. These changes have impacted how water heaters are manufactured and installed.

These modifications can impact you directly if your existing water heater is in a tight location in your home. It may be difficult to get the same sized unit in the existing location due to the new diameter and height requirements.

All new water heaters are manufactured to these new specifications.

Tank water heaters manufactured since 2015 have more insulation, making them wider.



A new unit that has the same gallon capacity as an existing unit may be two or more inches wider.

Standard tank water heaters are now slightly taller. The additional insulation makes the water heaters heavier.

The height of a new unit with the same gallon capacity may be two or more inches taller.





Tankless Water Heaters

Efficiency Rate and Costs Involved

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Standard tank water heaters have an energy factor of approximately .60. Meaning that approximately 60% of the energy generated is used to heat the water, and 40% of that heat is lost in this process.

Tankless water heaters have an 80 - 99% gas efficiency rating. You greatly reduce your heat loss when you convert to tankless and use less fuel to heat the same volume of water.

In summary, tankless water heaters are up to 40% more energy efficient.

TLC typically installs 95% or higher efficiency-rated tankless water heaters.



REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

One of the many reasons people choose to replace their tank water heater with a tankless is because tankless is an environmentally-friendly way to conserve fossil fuels. You maximize the heat generated to provide hot water with little heat loss.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED TO INSTALL?

Tankless water heaters are typically more expensive to install than standard water heaters. The cost difference is due to the process required to convert to tankless.

TIME - A tankless water heater conversion can take 10 - 16 hours depending on the specific requirements and configuration of your home.

GAS UPGRADE - Tankless units require greater gas volume. Your home's gas line may need to be upgraded or a new line added to support the unit.

CONDENSATION DRAIN REQUIREMENTS - A drain line or pump needs to be run from the tankless unit to a drain line in your home.

VENTING - New venting often needs to be added to the new unit to adequately vent the gas exhaust from the water heater.

CODE UPGRADES - Depending on your home, upgrades may be needed to bring your water heating system in alignment with current code standards. These upgrades vary from home to home, so the costs also vary. Talk to your professional plumber to understand your options and the installation requirements for your home.



Sizing and Hot Water Demand




What to Consider

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SIZE TANKLESS WATER HEATER

When determining which size of tankless water heater you need, consider your hot water usage, the size of your home, and the fixture demand. This ensures that the unit can support your hot water needs. Tankless water heater pricing differs based on the flow rate efficiency that is necessary to meet your hot water demands.

The higher the flow rate, the greater the requirements.

These factors are considered when determining the unit size needed to produce enough hot water for your family. Size also impacts tankless water heater cost.

NUMBER OF BATHROOMS	HOT WATER DEMAND	SIZE OF HOME
 <p>You'll need a unit to handle adequate flow for the number of bathrooms in your home.</p>	 <p>Consider the hot water needs for fixtures and appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines.</p>	 <p>The square footage of your home will determine how far hot water needs to travel, which impacts the needed flow rate.</p>



Tankless Water Heater Installation Process

Converting from tank to tankless can take from 10 - 16 hours, depending on installation requirements. The process is more intensive than your standard tank water heater replacement. It involves removing the tank unit and replacing the venting and pipes with proper fittings and materials that are up to code for a tankless water heater.

Ensure that you hire a licensed professional to install the unit. Remember that in most cases, gas modifications will be needed to accommodate the large number of BTUs used by tankless water heaters. You want to make sure you hire a professional who will stand behind their work and warranty the installation.

Overall, tankless water heaters are more energy efficient than tank water heaters. Once you eliminate the need to heat and store water, your energy efficiency goes up, and ideally your energy costs may go down. If you still have lingering questions, please contact our experts or request a free in home estimate.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Do I need to change my gas line?

A. Yes, tankless water heaters typically need a larger gas line to support the higher demand for initial gas output.

Q. Do I need a water softener system?

A. It depends on your level of water hardness. Rapid heating of hard water creates scaling on tankless components and a water softener system may be required by the manufacturer.

Q. Will I get instant hot water?

A. Tankless water heaters do not naturally solve delays in hot water arriving to your fixtures. Water pumps can solve this by sending the water faster. Some tankless units come with water pumps. Note: Water pumps can also be added to standard tank hot water heaters.

Financing Options

TLC offers affordable and flexible ways to upgrade or replace your water heater or other equipment in your home.

TLC has partnered with Nusenda Credit Union to provide our customers with special, low-interest financing for furnaces and other home system upgrades and repairs. This exclusive offer is available to TLC customers only.

TLC works directly with Nusenda to make financing easy. You don't have to be a Nusenda member to be approved.

For more information you can contact Nusenda directly, or apply online at our website.



The Power of WE[®]

Nusenda Credit Union

Merchant Lending Department
(505) 889-5113
merchantlending@nusenda.org



SERVICE FINANCE COMPANY, LLC

TLC also offers financing with Service Financing Company, LLC. We have added this as a second option for customers who would like to finance their ac conversion or other home repairs. This option is based on approved credit only. You can apply on our website or call our office to speak with our financing specialists about either of these options.

- ✔ **Low Interest Options**
- ✔ **Deferred Payment Option**
- ✔ **Easy Approval**



Thank You For Downloading this Guide

WHY CHOOSE US?

We offer unbeatable service and support.

When you choose TLC for your water heater installation, you get a company that has stood behind our craftsmanship and work for over 35 years. We're not just a company that will install equipment and leave you hanging when you need service or maintenance on your new system. We'll be here every step of the way from the initial estimate through the life of your new water heater. You can rest assured that your installation will be done by professional, knowledgeable technicians. We offer an unbeatable warranty and will stand behind our work with a 100% satisfaction guarantee.

You're making an investment in your home and your comfort. Our job is to ensure that your new system brings you comfort and peace of mind.

We hope you found this guide helpful in making a decision about your home's water heating system. TLC is here for you throughout this process so if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to our team. We know purchasing a water heater is a big decision, and we're here to help. If you're ready to schedule a free no-obligation estimate, please schedule below, or call our office.

CONTACT US:

Call our office today.

Albuquerque
(505) 761-9644

Santa Fe
(505) 471-0119

[Schedule Free Estimate](#)

