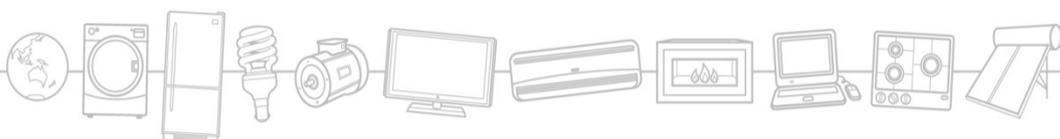


## Electricity costs/tariffs

Energy providers in most areas offer special electricity tariffs for water heating. The type of tariff can affect the operating costs of the system you install. It is important to discuss your tariff options with your installer before installation begins to understand how different tariffs will affect your running costs and your system's performance. Tariffs differ between continuous and off-peak (controlled load) supply, and vary across the states and territories. It is your responsibility to check that you are on the most suitable tariff for your household. Some general information is provided below, but it is recommended that you speak to your system provider and your electricity provider for more detail.

Electricity tariffs are changing to encourage people to reduce their electricity usage at peak times. As a result, the time that you use electricity will be a key factor in determining the price that you pay. It will be important to take this into consideration when making decisions about your water heater now and into the future.

| Tariff                        | What is it?  | When can I use it?  | When can't I use it?   | What does it cost? | Additional information   |  |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------|--|--|
| Continuous electricity supply | Flat rate  | Provides power so your water can be heated at any time of the day or night. | Available any time.  | N/A                | It is charged at a higher price per kilowatt hour (kWh) than off-peak electricity.   | Electric boosters and heat pumps connected to continuous supply could turn on at any time.   |
|                               | Time of use (This tariff only applies to homes where a new digital smart meter has been installed) | Provides power so your water can be heated at any time of the day or night. | Available at any time, however charges are higher during peak or shoulder periods. | N/A                | Electricity use is charged at different rates depending on the period when you use the electricity (peak, shoulder or off-peak). | Check with your electricity provider to see if you are eligible to have a smart meter installed.<br><br>Time switches can be used to ensure that water is only heated during off-peak times. |



| Tariff  | What is it?  | When can I use it?  | When can't I use it?   | What does it cost?  | Additional information   |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Off-peak (controlled load) electricity supply | <p>Hard-wired dedicated circuit (Off-peak electricity supply)</p> <p>Some utility providers offer discounted electricity prices for dedicated circuits, including water heating that can be controlled by the utility. Availability depends on meter type, meter configuration and available tariffs.</p> <p>Power to your water heater is provided between a defined time period only. This is usually determined by the distributor, and must be hardwired to the dedicated circuit.</p> | At prescribed periods as detailed by your utility provider. | <p>Dedicated circuit off peak are not suitable for solar systems with a gas booster, or with circulation pumps.</p> <p>May not be suitable for heat pumps in cold or frost-prone areas</p> | Has a significantly lower price per kWh than continuous electricity tariff. | <p>Some water heaters have a manual boost function or a 'one shot' timer allowing temporary boosting on continuous tariff.</p> <p>Your electricity utility must approve the type of water heater for it to be connected to a controlled-load tariff.</p> |

*Notes: Continuous electricity supply may be more effective and cheaper than off-peak when used with manual booster control for households that use a lot of water but are happy to experiment with optimal use of the manual switch. If the boost is not used correctly it can significantly increase the cost of heating water.*

Do you require more information?

See [www.energyrating.gov.au](http://www.energyrating.gov.au).