

# ASK BLOSSMAN:

New Federal Efficiency Standards  
on Residential Water Heaters

Purchasing a new water heater for a home remodel? Be aware that there are new federal efficiency regulation standards on residential water heaters from the U.S. Dept of Energy as of April, 2015.

Q. Please explain the heightened Energy Factor ratings for residential use and how it affects my household?



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY**

A. The new energy efficiency mandates go into effect April 16 as a result of updates to the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act. Energy Factor (EF) ratings indicates a water heater's overall energy efficiency based on the amount of hot water produced per unit of fuel consumed over a typical day, the U.S. Department of Energy says. According to the DOE, the new energy efficiency mandates say the new standard will save 3.3 quads of energy (QUAD: an amount of energy equal to 1015 BTU) and result in about \$63 billion in energy bill savings over the next 30 years.

Q. What are the changes for water heaters for a residential home?

A. They will become larger in size, with up to 2 inches of more insulation, or utilize different technologies, but they will be more efficient and use less overall energy," says Chad Sanborn, product marketing manager for Bradford White. "This is a major shift across all residential water heaters. It's going to have implications on electric units, as well as gas - being natural gas or propane - and heating oil units.

Be an educated consumer. *Water heater resource site listed below.*

- <http://energy.gov/public-services/homes/water-heating>
- The Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute offers product performance information on many appliances, including water heaters. Visit [www.ahridirectory.org](http://www.ahridirectory.org).
- The Appliance Standards Awareness Project covers the new water heater standards and key facts about the changes. Visit [www.appliance-standards.org/product/water-heaters](http://www.appliance-standards.org/product/water-heaters).
- Bradford White and Rinnai are among the water heater manufacturers hosting webpages with information on what the new standards mean for businesses. Visit [www.bradfordwhite.com/naeca](http://www.bradfordwhite.com/naeca) and [www.rinnai.us/about-rinnai/doe](http://www.rinnai.us/about-rinnai/doe).

Find your nearest Blossman Gas location at [www.blossmangas.com](http://www.blossmangas.com) or call 1-888.BLOSSMAN to learn more.