

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SOLAR HOT WATER

With Australia's abundant sunshine it makes great sense to get your hot water free from the sun®. Using solar energy to heat your water is a far more efficient and sustainable method of water heating than traditional electric and gas systems.

For over 60 years, Solahart has been setting the standard for solar hot water systems in Australia. Using a range of technologies, we provide efficient and cost-effective solar water heating solutions for every Australian climate zone.

We often get asked about the benefits of solar hot water, so here are some of the more frequently asked questions to help you evaluate if a Solahart Solar Water Heater is right for you.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SOLAR HOT WATER COLLECTOR AND A SOLAR PV PANEL?

Solar hot water works by 'collecting' the sun's heat and transferring this energy to the solar collectors either directly to water or indirectly to anti-freeze fluid, which is used in frost prone areas. The heated water or fluid is then circulated back to the storage tank to provide hot water free from the sun®.

Solar Power (PV panels), on the other hand, rely on sunlight to generate DC electricity, which is fed into an inverter and converted into AC current to power your home.

Although both technologies rely on the sun's free energy, they have entirely different purposes.

WHY CHOOSE SOLAR HOT WATER?

Water heating accounts for around 25%¹ of the average Australian household's energy use, clearly outweighing other forms of energy consumption.

The great thing about solar water heaters is that they store energy from the sun in a storage tank for later use, which is in effect, just like a battery. And because they are so efficient, solar water heater collectors take up about 1/3[^] of the roof space needed for an equivalent sized solar power system.

WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF A SOLAHART SOLAR WATER HEATER?

Getting your hot water free from the sun® not only saves energy but also saves greenhouse gas emissions that would have been produced in the generation of that energy. By replacing an electric storage water heater with a Solahart Solar Water Heater, you could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 3 tonnes a year*, which is the equivalent of taking a small car off the road.

ARE GOVERNMENT REBATES AVAILABLE?

Solar water heaters are so good for the environment that they qualify for government incentives in the form of Small-Scale Technology Certificates (STCs), making it more cost-effective to get into solar hot water. The financial benefit of these STCs can significantly reduce the purchase price of your solar water heater.

WHY DO SOLAR WATER HEATERS HAVE BOOSTERS?

All solar water heaters include electric or gas boosters to ensure you have hot water even during the colder, darker days of winter and on those rainy days. By selecting the right Solahart model for your area and your family's hot water usage patterns, you can minimise the need to use the booster.

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WHAT ARE SMALL-SCALE TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATES (STCs)?

Each STC represents the equivalent of one megawatt hour of electricity generation from an accredited renewable energy source such as a solar water heater or solar power system.

The financial benefit from assigning your right to create STCs for your solar installation can be used to reduce the purchase price of your new Solahart.

The number of STCs created varies with the size/model of solar water heater or solar power system and the region (or zone) in which the unit is installed. The value of an STC is not fixed and varies depending on market factors.

HOW MUCH WILL A SOLAHART WATER HEATER SAVE ME?

Savings will vary depending on which part of Australia you live in, the type of water heater being replaced, the amount of hot water you use, the model of solar hot water system installed, the orientation and inclination of the collectors and, your fuel tariff. Maximum financial savings are achievable when replacing an electric water heater on a continuous tariff, or an inefficient 3-star gas storage water heater.

IS THERE AN ALTERNATIVE TO PUTTING THE TANK ON THE ROOF?

Our split system solar water heaters allow you to enjoy all the benefits of Solahart's advanced solar technology - without the tank on the roof. With a Solahart Split System, the low profile collectors are on your roof and the tank installed at ground level. Alternatively, you can choose a Solahart Heat Pump which extracts warmth from the surrounding air, without the need for solar collectors.

DOES A SOLAHART TAKE LONG TO INSTALL?

If your current hot water system breaks down, Solahart can have you back in hot water quickly, with a temporary system so you can still enjoy warm showers while you wait for your installation.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PAY FOR ITSELF?

Financial payback will vary depending on your circumstances, but with the available incentives plus the ongoing energy savings, you can begin to recover your additional investment straight away. After you have paid off your initial investment, the savings are yours to spend on yourself and your family, year after year.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY NOW?

Solahart has a range of Interest-Free options available, without the need for a deposit.[#]

WHICH SOLAHART IS RIGHT FOR US?

The best Solahart unit for your needs will depend on the following key factors:

- The amount of available sun
- Susceptibility to frost
- The water chemistry in your area
- How many people are in the home and their typical hot water usage patterns.

WHAT WARRANTY DOES SOLAHART OFFER?

With over 60 years experience in solar, we are here for the long haul. Every system we install is backed by a trusted Solahart warranty. In the unlikely event of a problem, our team of Solahart dealers are there to fix it!

CAN I PAY FOR MY SYSTEM OVER TIME?

Switching to Solahart has never been more affordable thanks to our flexible Interest-Free solutions[#]. Visit our website to see our latest offers.

To choose the best water heater for your family, call your local Solahart expert and arrange a free solar consultation to ensure you pick the right unit for your circumstances.

For more information on Solahart solar water heaters visit our website or call your nearest Solahart expert on 1300 769 475 • solahart.com.au

¹ Source: <http://www.energyrating.gov.au/document/report-zoned-map-solar-water-heaters>

[^] Calculation based on comparing the STCs for a 302L to a 2Kw PV system in zone 3, adjusted for a 10 year deemed period.

^{*} Savings shown are based on Australian Government approved TRNSYS simulation modelling using a medium load. Maximum financial savings off your hot water bill are achievable when replacing an electric water heater on continuous tariff. Savings and incentives will vary depending upon your location, type of Solahart system installed, orientation and inclination of the solar collectors, type of water heater being replaced, hot water consumption and fuel tariff. Refer to www.solahart.com.au for further information.

[#] To approved applicants only.