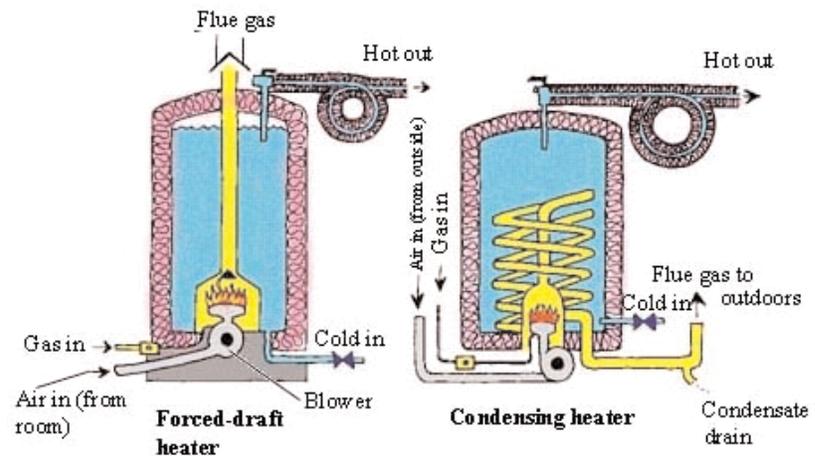


Gas Water Heater Replacement

New high efficiency gas hot water heaters can generate a substantial economic payback when used to replace old standard efficiency gas hot water heaters. Since hot water heaters normally have a 10 to 15 year life it makes sense to look at replacing any heater that age or older.

The heating of hot water has had many significant improvements in recent years. Electronic burner ignition is standard on high efficiency models. This feature replaces the pilot light that burned continuous on older models. A pilot light typically consumed 5 to 7 % of the natural gas used by a heater. Increased insulation is another feature that has reduced gas consumption by the heater. Insulation values in high efficient models are nearly triple the value of older units. This greatly reduces heat losses through the walls of the tank, which in turn reduces overall gas consumption.



The areas where the greatest improvements have been made are in burner design and efficiency. New high efficient, forced draft, atmospherically vented hot water heaters have efficiency ranges between 62 % and 72 %. This is in comparison to older units that are normally around 55 %. The most efficient models are the direct vent, sealed combustion, condensing coil water heaters. These units go up to 87 % efficiency but have a high price tag.

Note: The Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association sponsors an efficiency certification program. This program verifies manufacturers' equipment efficiency ratings. A directory of this information is published annually listing the manufacturers' model numbers and energy factors. Additionally the Federal Trade Commission requires that all water heaters be labeled with an "Energy Guide" label. This label shows, based on the national average cost of fuel, the annual operating costs of that particular water heater. If financially possible when purchasing a new gas water heater purchase the one with the lower operating costs.

If you would like additional energy savings tips, please see our energy efficiency section at www.vectren.com or contact us by e-mail at marketinginfo@vectren.com.