# Residential **Domestic Hot Water**



## What is Domesic Hot Water (DHW)?

Domestic hot water is potable hot water that is consumed for domestic purposes including food preparation, cleaning, and personal hygiene. The 2016 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Standards) regulate hot water appliances, insulation and systems for residential applications. Water heating energy use is based on the number of dwelling units, fuel type, distribution system, water heater type, and conditioned floor area. The water heating system is defined by the tank type, heater element type, distribution type, multifamily central water heating distribution, efficiency (either energy factor (or equivalent uniform energy factor) or recovery efficiency with the standby loss), tank volume, exterior insulation R-value (only for indirect) and rated input.

**Why?** Water heating energy use is an important end use in low-rise residential buildings. Roughly 90% of California households use natural gas-fueled water heaters, these are typically storage tank systems with volumes of 40 to 50 gallons. Roughly 6% of households use electricity to heat water and a few percent use propane (liquefied petroleum gas, or LPG). Standby loss associated with the center flue design represents about 25-35% of a typical gas storage water heater system's annual energy use.

### Relevant Code Sections

2016 California Building Energy Efficiency Standards, Title 24, Part 6:

- Section 110.1 Mandatory Requirements for Appliances
- Section 110.3 Mandatory Requirements for Service Water-heating Systems and Equipment
- Section 150.0(i) Water System Piping and Insulation for Piping, Tanks, and Cooling System Lines
- Section 150.0(n) Water Heating System
- Section 150.1(b) Performance Standards
- Section 150.1(c)8 Prescriptive Standards/Component Package for Domestic Water-Heating Systems
- Section 150.2(a)1D Additions Prescriptive Approach for Water Heaters
- Section 150.2(b)1G Alterations Prescriptive Approach for Water-Heating System

### **Relevant Compliance Forms**

- CF1R-ADD-01-E: Prescriptive Additions Compliance Form
- CF1R-ADD-02-E: Prescriptive Additions Non-HERS Compliance Form
- CF1R-ALT-01-E: Prescriptive Alterations Compliance Form
- CF1R-ALT-05-E: Prescriptive Alterations Non-HERS Compliance Form
- CF1R-NCB-01-E: Prescriptive Newly Constructed Building Compliance Form
- CF1R-PLB-01-E: Hydronic Heating System Worksheet
- CF1R-STH-01-E-OG300: Solar Water Heating Systems Worksheet
- CF1R-STH-02-E-0G100: Solar Water Heating Systems Worksheet
- CF2R-ADD-02-E: Prescriptive Additions Non-HERS Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-ALT-05-E: Prescriptive Alterations Non-HERS Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-PLB-01: Non-HERS Multifamily Central Hot Water System Distribution Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-PLB-02: Non-HERS Single Dwelling Unit Hot Water System Distribution Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-PLB-21: HERS Multifamily Central Hot Water System Distribution Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-PLB-22: HERS Single Dwelling Unit Hot Water System Distribution Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-STH-01: Solar Water Heating System Installation Compliance Form
- CF3R-EXC-20-H: HERS Verification of Existing Conditions for Alterations
- CF3R-PLB-21: HERS Verification of Multifamily Central Hot Water System Distribution
- CF3R-PLB-22: HERS Verification of Single Dwelling Unit Hot Water System Distribution

### **Compliance Requirements**

The requirements for residential domestic hot water appliances, systems and insulation include both Mandatory and Prescriptive requirements.





Mandatory requirements set forth in Sections 110.1 and 110.3 of the Energy Standards apply to all DHW appliances, whether the project is newly constructed, an addition or an alteration. These sections establish the requirements for the manufacture, construction, and installation of certain DHW systems, equipment, appliances and building components. Section 150.0 includes Mandatory requirements for residential DHW systems and insulation.

### **Minimum Water Heater Efficiency**

Minimum efficiency requirements are based on the type and size of the water heater. Both small and large units are regulated by federal efficiency standards and California's Appliance Efficiency Regulations (Title 20). The California Energy Commission maintains an Appliance Efficiency Database that includes regulated equipment certified to comply with Title 20.



Figure 1: Example search for a water heater in the Energy Commission's Appliance Efficiency Database
The delineation between small and large units is determined by the energy input for the type of unit. Small gas-fired units have a maximum input of 75,000 Btu/hr for storage type units and 200,000 Btu/hr for instantaneous units. Table 1 outlines the minimum efficiencies for common gas water heater types.

Water Heater Size and Type	Energy Factor (EF)/Thermal Efficiency
Small Gas Storage (≤55 gallons, ≤75 kBtu/hr input)	$EF^A = 0.675 - (0.0015*Volume)$
Small Gas Storage (>55 gallons, ≤75 kBtu/hr input)	$EF^A = 0.8012 - (0.00078*Volume)$
Small Gas Instantaneous (≤200 kBtu/hr input)	$EF^A = 0.82 - (0.0019*Volume)$
Large Gas Storage (any size volume but with an input-to-volume ratio of <4,000 Btu/hr/gal)	Thermal Efficiency = 0.80
Large Gas Instantaneous (≥4,000 Btu/hr/gal)	Thermal Efficiency = 0.80
Additionally, large gas storage units and large gas instantaneous units with a volume of 10 or	

more gallons must have a maximum standby loss determined by:  $\frac{Q}{800} + 110(Vr)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  where Q is the nameplate input in Btu/hr and Vr is the rated capacity in gallons.

A Or equivalent uniform energy factor.

Table 1: Minimum Efficiencies for Common Water Heater Types Manufactured After April 14, 2015 For minimum efficiencies of electric and oil water heaters, see Tables 5.1 and 5.2 in Chapter 5 of the Residential Compliance Manual.







### **Installation Requirements**

Section 110.3 includes Mandatory installation requirements for outlet temperature controls, distribution system controls and storage tank insulation, and requirements related to multifamily and state buildings.

### **Tank and Pipe Insulation Requirements**

Insulation for storage tanks must comply with Section 150.0(j)1:

 Unfired tanks (such as storage tanks for solar hot water systems or boilers) shall have either a minimum R-12 external wrap or a minimum internal insulation of R-16. Internal insulated tanks must include a label on the exterior of the tank showing the R-value

Pipe insulation shall comply with Section 150.0(j)2. The thickness of the pipe insulation corresponds to the temperature of the water as described in Table 120.3-A. For DHW systems with fluid temperatures 105°F -140°F, pipe insulation thickness ranges from 1-1.5 inches depending on the diameter of the pipe. Pipe insulation is a Mandatory requirement in the following cases:

- The first 5 feet of hot & cold water pipes from storage tank
- All hot water piping with a nominal diameter of 3/4 inch or larger
- All piping associated with a domestic hot water recirculation system regardless of the pipe diameter
- Piping from heating source to storage tank or between tanks
- Piping buried below grade
- All hot water pipes from heating source to kitchen fixtures

See Section 150.0(j)2 for exceptions to pipe insulation requirements.

Section 150.0(j)3 contains requirements for insulation protection, including requirements around pipes exposed to weather and vapor retarders for chilled water or refrigerant suction piping.

### **Water Heater System Requirements**

Systems using gas or propane water heaters to serve individual dwelling units shall include the following components:

- A 120V electrical receptacle that is within 3 feet from the water heater and accessible
  to the water heater with no obstructions and
- A Category III or IV vent, or a Type B vent with straight pipe between the outside termination and the space where the water heater is installed **and**
- A condensate drain that is no more than 2 inches higher than the base of the installed water heater, and allows natural draining without pump assistance **and**
- A gas supply line with a capacity of at least 200,000 Btu/hr

See Section 150.0(n) for more information.

## **Prescriptive Requirements**

## **Domestic Water Heating Systems (Individual Dwelling Units)**

If using the Prescriptive compliance path, DHW equipment serving individual dwelling units (detached single-family homes, low-rise multifamily buildings) must comply with one of the following options, per Section 150.1(c)8:

- Storage Type Water Heaters: A gas or propane fired unit with an input of 105,000 Btu/hr or less, and a volume of 55 gallons or less, that meets the requirements for Quality Insulation Installation, and has either a field verified compact hot water distribution system or all DHW piping is insulated and field verified
- Storage Type Water Heaters: A gas or propane fired unit with an input of more than 105,000 Btu/hr, and a volume of more than 55 gallons, and has either a field verified compact hot water distribution system or all DHW piping is insulated and field verified. These larger systems do not have to meet the requirements for Quality Insulation Installation









- Instantaneous Type Water Heaters: A gas or propane fired unit with an input of 200,000 Btu/hr or less. For instantaneous water heaters with an input rating greater than 6.8 kBTU/hr (2 kW) the following Mandatory requirements can be found in Section 110.3(c)7 of the Energy Standards:
  - Isolation valves must be installed on both the cold water supply and the hot water pipe leaving the water heater
  - Hose bibbs or other fittings must be installed on each valve for flushing the water heater when the valves are closed

For recirculation distribution systems, only Demand Recirculation Systems with manual control pumps shall be used. Additional detail can be found in Section 150.1(c)8 and Appendix RA4.4.

# Domestic Water Heating Systems (Multifamily Buildings/Multiple Dwelling Units)

DHW systems that serve multiple dwelling units (those in low-rise or high-rise multifamily buildings) may be installed and must contain the following components:

- Gas or propane water heating equipment meeting the minimum energy efficiency requirements set forth in Section 110.1 and Section 110.3, summarized in Table F-2 in the 2016 Residential Compliance Manual, and in this document
- At least two recirculation loops, each serving roughly the same number of units
  - Exception: For systems serving less than eight dwelling units a single recirculation loop is required
- A solar water-heating system meeting the installation criteria specified in Reference Residential Appendix RA4 and a minimum solar savings fraction of 0.20 in Climate Zones 1 through 9 or a minimum solar savings fraction of 0.35 in Climate Zones 10 through 16

For more information regarding DHW systems in multifamily buildings the the Multifamily Fact Sheet.

### **HERS-Verified Recirculation Strategies**

Several recirculation strategies require verification by a HERS rater and center around demand recirculation. Demand recirculation systems require that the pump operation is initiated just before the hot water draw and is operated by either a manual or sensor control which shuts off the pump due to a rise in pipe temperature. The following are requirements for these systems:

- Demand Recirculation: Manual Control (RA4.4.9) shall be located in the kitchen
  and any point of use at least 20 feet away from the water heater. The manual control
  may be operated by wired or wireless mechanisms but must have a standby power of
  1 watt or less
- **Demand Recirculation: Sensor Control (RA4.4.10)** shall be located in the kitchen and any point of use at least 20 feet away from the water heater. The sensor mechanism may include motion sensors, door switches, and flow switches, and must have a standby power of 1 watt or less

With either strategy, the control shall shut off the pump in accordance with the following methods:

- After the pump has been activated, the controls shall allow the pump to operate until
  the water temperature at the thermo-sensor rises no more than 10°F above the initial
  temperature of the water in the pipes, or
- The controls shall not allow the pump to operate when the temperature exceeds 102°F The controls shall limit pump operation to a maximum of five minutes following ANY activation.

See Residential Appendix 3.6.6 (RA3.6.6) and Residential Appendix 4.4.7 (RA4.4.7) for more information.



## **Addition and Alteration Projects**



All of the Mandatory requirements discussed above apply to addition and alteration projects except that:

- Existing inaccessible piping does not require pipe insulation, and
- System requirements from Section 150.0(n) do not apply unless an addition project is adding a water heater



Many addition and alteration projects will use the Prescriptive compliance path. For more details on requirements, see:

- For Additions Section 150.2(a)1D
- For Alterations Section 150.2(b)1G

These sections offer compliance through meeting the requirements of Section 150.1(c)8 or alternative compliance paths if these requirements can't be met under existing conditions. The Energy Commission has published a Water Heater Efficiency Guide. See page 2 of the Reference Guide for guidance on replacement heat pump water heaters.

## Compliance Credit for Performance Path

Compliance credit for DHW distribution is available for several different strategies, including one non-HERS credit for pipe insulation (PIA) and four HERS distribution credits:

- Pipe Insulation (PIA)
- Pipe Insulation (PIC-H)
- Parallel Piping with 5' maximum length (PP-H)
- Compact Design (CHWDS-H)
- Point of Use (POU-H)

# The Water Heating Calculation Method allows water heating credits for solar water heaters. Solar systems save energy by using renewable resources to offset the use of conventional energy sources.

**Solar Water Heating** 

Solar water heating is Prescriptively required for water heating systems serving multiple dwelling units, whether they are multifamily, hotel/motels or high-rise nonresidential buildings.

## **Collector Requirements**

Collectors for solar water heating systems used to meet the requirements of the Energy Standards (such as those for DHW systems serving multiple dwelling units) must be certified by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC). Additionally the installed collector or system must be either OG-100 or OG-300 certified:

- **OG-100** certification applies only to the collector, the part of the solar energy system exposed to the sun collecting heat
  - For a listings of compliant products please refer to the SRCC Collector Ratings
- OG-300 certification integrates the performance of the collector with a
  performance model of the entire system and must be installed with the following
  quidelines:
  - Face within 35 degrees of due south
  - Have a tilt slope of at least 3:12
  - Be unshaded by buildings or trees

For more specific installation guidelines, see Residential Appendix 4.4.20.

## Replacing Electric Resistance Water Heaters

- This is only applicable to alterations. It is not allowed on new construction
- CANNOT be installed if there is any natural gas at the home
- Must be ≤60 gallons



## Forms – Which & When

### **During Design:**

- CF1R-ADD-01-E: Prescriptive Additions Compliance Form
- CF1R-ADD-02-E: Prescriptive Additions Non-HERS Compliance Form
- CF1R-ALT-01-E: Prescriptive Alterations Compliance Form
- CF1R-ALT-05-E: Prescriptive Alterations Non-HERS Compliance Form
- CF1R-NCB-01-E: Prescriptive Newly Constructed Building Compliance Form
- CF1R-PLB-01-E: Hydronic Heating System Worksheet
- CF1R-STH-01-E-0G300: Solar Water Heating Systems Worksheet
- CF1R-STH-02-E-0G100: Solar Water Heating Systems Worksheet
  - All forms completed and signed by permit applicant (designer, installing contractor or building owner)
  - All forms submitted to the building department during permit application

### Notes:

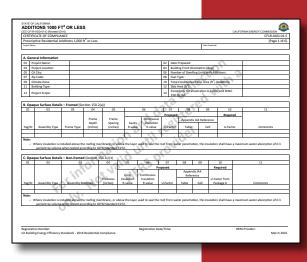
 The required CF1R forms are based on project specifics and will vary.

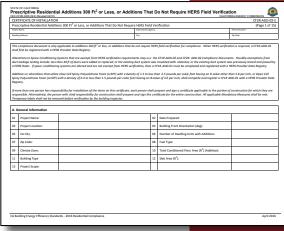
### **During Construction**

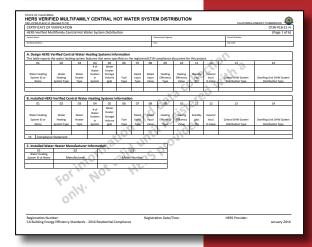
- CF2R-ADD-02-E: Prescriptive Additions Non-HERS Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-ALT-05: Prescriptive Alterations Non-HERS Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-PLB-01: Non-HERS Multifamily Central Hot Water System Distribution Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-PLB-02: Non-HERS Single Dwelling Unit Hot Water System Distribution Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-PLB-21: HERS Multifamily Central Hot Water System Distribution Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-PLB-22: HERS Single Dwelling Unit Hot Water System Distribution Installation Compliance Form
- CF2R-STH-01: Solar Water Heating System Installation Compliance Form
- CF3R-EXC-20-H: HERS Verification of Existing Conditions for Alterations
- CF3R-PLB-21: HERS Verification of Multifamily Central Hot Water System Distribution
- CF3R-PLB-22: HERS Verification of Single Dwelling Unit Hot Water System Distribution
  - All forms completed and signed by installing contractor
  - All forms should be made available for the inspector when onsite

### **Notes:**

 The required CF2R and CF3R forms are based on project specifics and will vary.









## For More Information

## **Primary Documents**

- Energy Standards Section 110.1 Minimum Water Heater Efficiency energycodeace.com/site/custom/public/ reference-ace-2016/index.html#!Documents/ section1101mandatoryrequirementsforappliances.htm
- Energy Standards Section 110.3 Installation Requirements energycodeace.com/site/custom/public/reference-ace-2016/ index.html#!Documents/section1103mandatoryrequirements forservicewaterheatingsystems and.htm
- Energy Standards Section 150.0(n) Water Heating System energycodeace.com/site/custom/public/ reference-ace-2016/index.html#!Documents/ section1500mandatoryfeaturesanddevices.htm
- Energy Standards Section 150.0(i) Water System Piping and Insulation for Piping, Tanks, and Cooling System Lines energycodeace.com/site/custom/public/ reference-ace-2016/index.html#!Documents/ section1500mandatoryfeaturesanddevices.htm
- Energy Standards Section 150.1(c)8 Prescriptive Standards/ Component Package, Domestic Water-Heating Systems energycodeace.com/site/custom/public/reference-ace-2016/ index.html#!Documents/section1501performanceand prescriptivecomplianceapproachesforlowr.htm
- Energy Standards Section 150.2(a)1D Additions, Prescriptive Approach, Water Heater energycodeace.com/site/custom/public/reference-ace-2016/index.html#!Documents/section1502energyefficiency standardsforadditionsandalterationsto.htm
- Energy Standards Section 150.2(b)1G Alterations, Prescriptive Approach, Water-Heating System energycodeace.com/site/custom/public/reference-ace-2016/index.html#!Documents/section1502energyefficiency standardsforadditionsandalterationsto.htm
- Energy Standards Residential ACM Reference Manual Chapter 2.10, Domestic Hot Water: energy.ca.gov/2015publications/CEC-400-2015-024/CEC-400-2015-024-CMF-REV2.pdf
- Energy Standards Residential Compliance Manual Chapter 5, Water Heating Requirements: energy.ca.gov/2015publications/CEC-400-2015-032/chapters/
  - chapter\_5-Water\_Heating\_Requirements.pdf Energy Standards Residential Appendix (RA) 4.4.21, Solar Water
- **Heating Systems** energycodeace.com/site/custom/public/reference-ace-2016/ index.html#!Documents/ra44waterheatingmeasures.htm

- 2015 Title 20 Appliance Efficiency Regulations energy.ca.gov/2015publications/CEC-400-2015-021/CEC-400-2015-021.pdf
  - Updated standards adopted since the publication of the 2015 Appliance Efficiency Regulations are available at WestlawNext

### **California Energy Commission Information & Services**

### Title 24, Part 6

- Energy Standards Hotline: 1-800-772-3300 (Free) or Title24@energy.ca.gov
- Online Resource Center: energy.ca.gov/title24/orc/
  - The Energy Commission's main web portal for Energy Standards, including information, documents, and historical information

### Title 20

- Appliances Hotline: (888) 838-1467 or outside California (916) 651-7100
- Questions may also be emailed to Appliances@energy.ca.gov
- California Appliance Efficiency Standards Site: energy.ca.gov/appliances
- Modernized Appliance Efficiency Database (MAEDBS): https://cacertappliances.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx

### Additional Resources

- Solar Rating & Certification Corporation (SRCC): solar-rating.org
- Energy Code Ace: EnergyCodeAce.com
  - An online "one-stop-shop" providing free resources and training to help appliance and building industry professionals decode and comply with Title 24, Part 6 and Title 20. The site is administered by California's investor-owned utilities. Of special interest: Fact Sheets

energycodeace.com/content/resources-fact-sheets/

- High-rise and Low-rise Multifamily
- Quick Reference Sheet: Residential Equipment Minimum Heating and Cooling Efficiencies

Please register with the site and select an industry role for your profile in order to receive messages about all our free offerings!









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