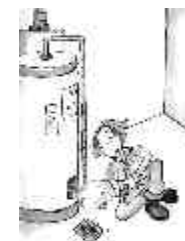


AEL&P's Comparison Shopping for a Water Heater

What makes this model more efficient than other similar models? ● How do I maintain it to maximize the efficiency over its life? ● What about safety, construction and capacity? ● Will a more expensive but energy-saving model be cheaper in the long run? ● What do I need to know about this appliance to use it most effectively?

Brand/Model			
Gallon Capacity			
First-Hour Rating			
Energy Factor (EF)			
Insulation R-Factor			
Heat Trap (Yes/No)			
Tank Construction ● <i>Steel, fiberglass, glass</i>			
Anode Rod ● <i>1,2, none needed, another can be added</i>			
Sediment Control Features ● Curved dip tube to swirl water and reduce sediment buildup ● Another way this is addressed? ● Note the ease of draining off water			
Tank Warranty Period			
Parts Warranty Period			
Reputation of Brand			
Other Observations			
Price			
Annual Maintenance Recommended			
Delivery/Installation			
Disposal of Old			
EnergyGuide Annual kWh			
Energy Cost (kWh x \$.095 x 12 yrs)			
Total Cost Over 12 Years			



Where and what?

Gallon Capacity: Found on the EnergyGuide label

First-Hour Rating: More important than the gallon capacity, as it determines whether you will likely run out of hot water or will be paying to store more than your normally need. Analyze your household's usage. Some suggest that if you have teenagers, you go up one size over what you think you need.

Energy Factor: Not always easy to find, but ask. The higher the number, the more efficient. See www.gamanet.org for EF's.

Insulation R-Factor: Should be at least R-20, better if R-24. **Heat Traps** will also improve energy efficiency and are inexpensive, as an installed component of a heater.

Tank Construction: This is considered as a factor for corrosion. Lining, seams, and fittings are vulnerable. Corrosion leads to leaks or reduced efficiency as scales form on elements. If the tank is made of fiberglass, the corrosion problem is greatly decreased.

Anode Rods and Sediment Control: This goes with corrosion control. Find out how each model handles corrosion and sediment buildup. The longevity of the heater depends in part on this.

Annual Maintenance: Whether you do it – or you hire it – it has a cost.