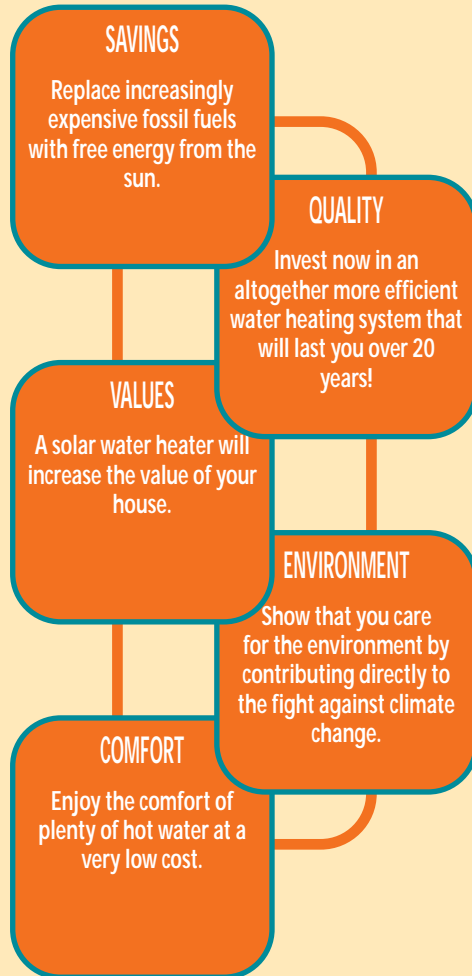


Solar Water Heating

Bring the benefits of solar energy to your house and family.



Invest now for a brighter future!

Sustainable Energy Ireland's Renewable Energy Information Office, one of Europe's leading renewable energy agencies, provides expert, independent information and advice on the development of all renewable energy technologies, including solar energy.

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SOLAR Water Heaters



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Sustainable Energy Ireland is funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 with programmes part financed by the European Union

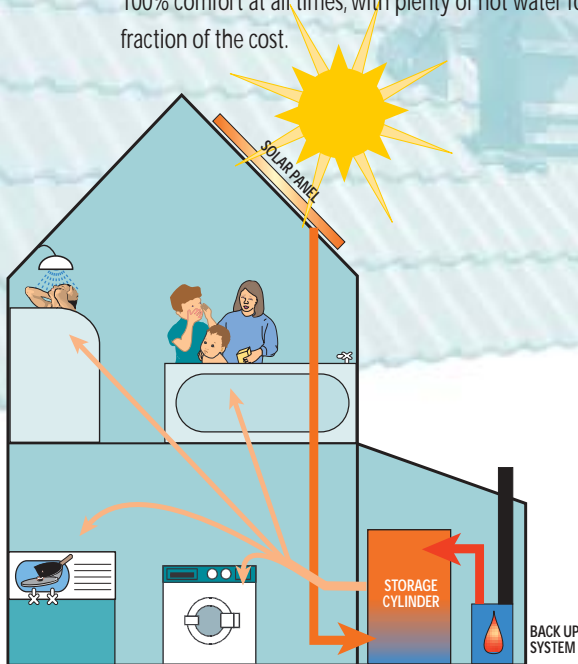
Hot water from the sun, in Ireland?

Believe it or not, one square metre on your roof receives the equivalent of more than 100 litres of oil in free solar energy per year. As a matter of fact, this is more than in Paris.

A solar water heater produces hot water by transforming sunlight into heat through its solar panels. That heat is then stored in a large hot water cylinder so that it is available when you need it. A control system ensures the regulation and safety of the whole equipment. Simple, efficient and reliable!

Ok. But what if the sun is not shining?

No problem. A solar water heater not only converts direct sunlight but also indirect sunlight into heat, so it works even when the sky is overcast. True, there will be less solar heat available during the winter, but a back-up heater will boost the water temperature. The result is 100% comfort at all times, with plenty of hot water for a fraction of the cost.



Is my house suitable?

A solar water heater can suit most situations. All you need is:

- ▶ space to put the solar panels (generally on the roof) and room for the storage cylinder in your utility room or hot press.
- ▶ access to the sun for the panels (orientated between south-east and south-west) and no over-shadowing by trees or other buildings.



What kind of system do I need?

There is a good selection of solar water heaters available on the Irish market. They are all built on the same principle, with varying degrees of sophistication and price.

If you are building a new house or replacing your hot water system, the extra cost of a solar water heater can be as low as 1000 Euro compared to a conventional system.



The table below gives a few pointers in terms of size and cost of the equipment:

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE HOUSEHOLD	AREA OF SOLAR PANELS	VOLUME OF THE SOLAR STORAGE CYLINDER	INDICATIVE COST OF EQUIPMENT
2 - 3	3 - 4 m ²	150 - 200 litres	€ 2,500 - 3,000
4 - 5	4 - 6 m ²	200 - 300 litres	€ 3,000 - 4,000
6 - 7	6 - 8 m ²	300 - 400 litres	€ 4,000 - 5,000

Installation may take one to three days for a skilled installer.

What to do next?

Quality is of paramount importance when choosing a solar water heater and an installer.

REIO's recommendations:

- Only opt for a solar heating system with a recognised certificate of quality and performance.
- Your system should be designed by a professional to meet your specific requirements and fit in with your central heating system.
- Your supplier should recommend an installer with the proper training and experience in this field.
- Make sure your system has been thoroughly checked and commissioned before signing off the installation.

For further information, download the following documents from REIO's website:

- our full brochure and our buyers' guide on solar water heating;
- a list of suppliers of certified solar water heaters in Ireland.