

# ASK BLOSSMAN:

## Propane vs. Electric Water Heaters

Many residents are in the process of selling and buying homes. They are hearing about the benefits of installing propane versus electric appliances, particularly water heaters.

### WHAT ARE THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PROPANE AND ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS?

Q. Is propane as reliable as I know electricity to be?

A1. Approximately 4.5 million U.S. households use propane for water heating purposes.

A2. By relying on propane for various products in your home such as a water heater, you are lessening your dependency on the electric grid

A3. With propane, you can still have hot water during outages, even in the most difficult weather conditions



Q. What about cost – what is the difference between propane and electric water heaters?

A1. On a nationwide average, propane costs less than electricity on a per-BTU basis. According to a U.S. Department of Energy study, electricity is nearly twice as costly as propane.

A2. Cost is approximately \$10 less per month per appliance to operate than comparable electric units.

A3. A big plus- on average, a propane heating system is 20 degrees warmer compared to electric heat pumps that dispense cooler air.

Q. What kinds of water heaters are most popular?

A1. Use outdoor propane appliances outdoors — and indoor propane appliances indoors. Don't keep a propane cylinder indoors or in an enclosed area such as a basement, a garage, a shed, or a tent.

A2. Propane tankless water heaters conserve energy and increases efficiency to reduce a family's energy cost by approximately 30%.

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