

FAQ: solar water heating

1. Will a solar water-heating system replace my existing water heater?

To ensure that hot water is available at any time of day year round, your existing water heater will act as a backup for times when solar energy is not available, such as at night. Systems are sized so that solar will deliver most of the energy for generating hot water.

2. Where can the solar collectors be installed?

Typically, solar collectors are placed on the roof of a building. If the roof can not be used, collectors can be mounted on a rack located on the ground, a wall, or on a fence. Shading throughout the year must also be taken into account.

3. How long will an installation take?

Installations can take between one and two days on a home.

4. How does a solar water heater save me money?

By offsetting the energy required by traditional sources (e.g. water heaters powered by electricity, natural gas, and other fossil fuels), you will reduce your utility bills. You also extend the life of your existing heater as it will work less.

5. How do I optimize the amount of energy collected?

The best orientation for collectors is due south; however, collectors can be positioned anywhere between south-west and south-east with negligible loss in performance. You can also get the most out of solar system by using hot water while the system is producing hot water.

6. What is the expected lifetime of a solar water-heating system?

Quality solar water-heating systems offered by SunTap are designed to last 20 years or more.

7. What about the condition of my roof? Does it matter?

If the roof needs replacing, it is highly recommended to have it replaced before installing solar collectors; otherwise the collectors will have to be removed and re-installed to accommodate a re-roofing.

8. How will the collectors look when installed on my house?

Most collectors are designed to blend in with the roof, having the appearance of skylights.

9. Are there any other benefits to installing a solar water heater?

If you are planning on selling your home, having a solar water heater already installed may improve the resale value of the property. You reduce pollution by offsetting energy consumption, as well.