

The screenshot shows the top of the Waco Tribune-Herald website. At the top left is the logo 'wacotrib.com' in white text on a blue background. Below the logo is a search bar with the text 'SEARCH: enhanced by Google' and a green arrow button. To the right of the search bar are two buttons: 'Subscribe to Waco Tribune-Herald' and 'RSS FEED: XML'. Below these are several navigation tabs: NEWS, OBITUARIES, SPORTS, BRAZOS LIVING, BUSINESS, OPINION, BLOGS, and CUSTOM. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with red arrows pointing to the following categories: CLASSIFIEDS, WACOTRIB CARS, REAL ESTATE, EMPLOYMENT, and MERCHANDISE. On the right side, there is a large advertisement banner for 'METABOLIC RESEARCH CENTER' with the text 'Lose up to 5 weight loss' and 'Waco 254.741.1700'.

## Heating water, saving money a tankless job?

Advertisement

Saturday, May 06, 2006

With energy costs on the rise, many homeowners are scrambling for a way to save a few dollars. In the last five years, one of those strategies has been the installation of a “tankless” water heater.

Also known as “on-demand” or “instantaneous” water heaters, these devices are seen by many as less expensive to operate in the long haul, while other experts claim that the savings are more humble and that it takes decades to recover the initial investment.

### Benefits of tankless

- **Endless hot water:** No more having to schedule who gets to shower when.
- **Lower natural gas bill:** Some estimates are a 33-50 percent reduction.
- **Saves space:** Since they can be wall-mounted inside or outside or even in the attic and as small as a piece of carry-on luggage, the old water heater closet can be converted to other use.
- **Fewer safety considerations:** Because tankless heaters don't have pilot lights, kids are not able to turn them on, and the units reduce the risk of fire and carbon-monoxide poisoning.
- **Helps the environment:** Natural gas is not being wasted heating 40 gallons of water until use.
- **Durability:** They can last up to 20 years or more, versus the 12-year average life span of a tank water heater.

### Drawbacks of tankless

- **Initial start-up costs:** Prices run from \$500 to more than \$1,000, depending upon how it is installed.

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what capacity you seek. A conventional gas or electric 40-gallon home hot water heater can \$300-\$450, if not less.

— If the gallons-per-minute flow demand surpasses the unit's ability to heat it, **the unit may r to keep up.**

— Gas-fired tankless water heaters do require venting.

— The **gas supply pipe may not be large enough** to serve all of the appliances that use hot water. Changing the pipe would be an additional expense. If propane is the fuel, a larger storage tank is needed. Electric tankless heaters may require an increased power supply for the heater circuit.

**Sources: BHG.com, DesignerPlumbing.com, Takagi Industrial, www.HomeTips.com, www.tankless.com, Consumer Reports, www.House-Needs.com.**

Consumers will receive **up to \$300 in tax incentive credit** if they purchase and install an energy-efficient tankless water heater this year, part of the August 2005 energy bill passed by Congress.

The Energy Tax Credit will continue through Dec. 31, 2007. The incentive only applies to energy-efficient gas water heaters with an energy rating of 0.80.

The typical U.S. household wastes more than 9,000 gallons of water a year while waiting for hot water. On average, hot water heating accounts for 20 percent or more of a family's annual energy bills.

**U.S. Department of Energy**

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