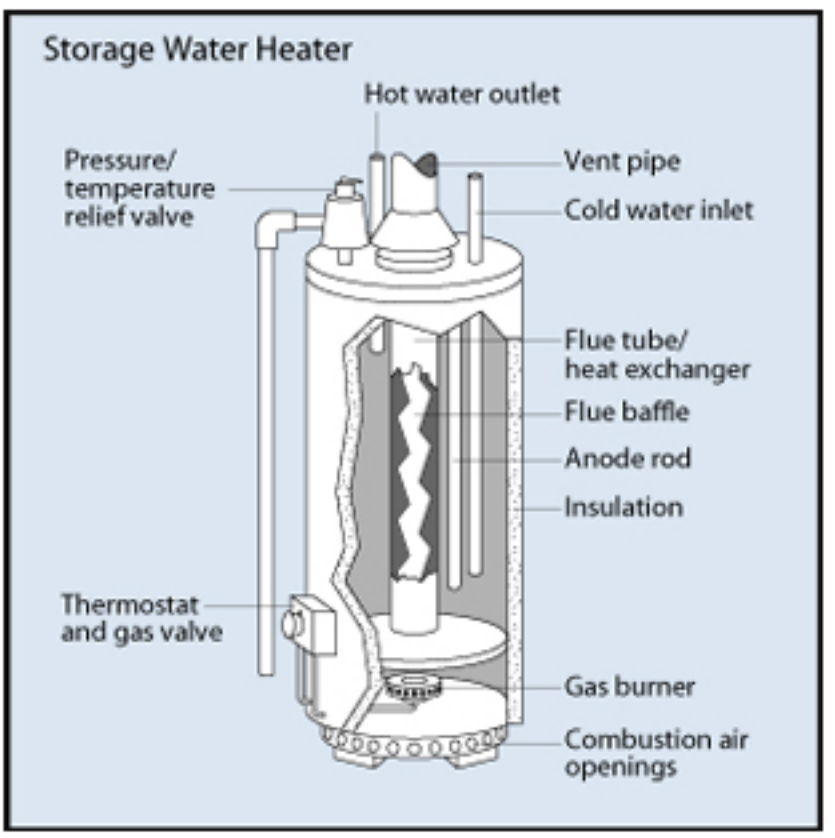
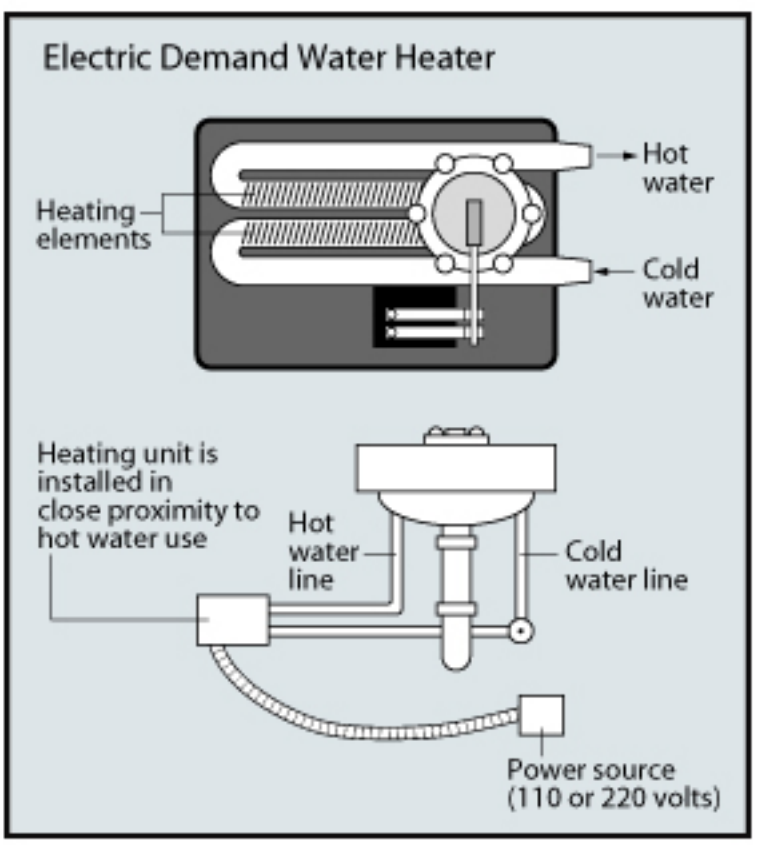
Keep The Hot Water, Lose The Tank

Conventional hot water heaters work around the clock to keep the water in the tank hot. In the past, there were no alternatives. But technology has evolved and tankless water heaters can provide a continuous flow of hot water, all while saving space and money. Whole-home gas tankless water heaters use the same principle to heat water as conventional water heaters, minus the tank.



It works in the following manner. When a hot water tap is turned on in the home, cold water is drawn into the water heater. A flow sensor activates the gas burner, which warms a heat exchanger. Incoming cold water encircles the heat exchanger and leaves the heater at its set temperature. Combustion gases are released through a dedicated, sealed vent system. And the construction of the tankless water heater employs temperature compensating valves tasked with eliminating water temperature fluctuations, to ensure consistent temperature and water pressure.

In essence, the tankless system heats water only when the water is needed, instead of maintaining a tank full of hot water at all times. In this way, tankless water heaters can achieve much greater efficiency than standard tank-type water heaters.



Source of Images: DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

It is estimated that most energy efficient models can save a family well over a hundred dollars per year on utility bills. In addition, tankless water heaters have a life expectancy of 20 years, which is much longer than conventional tank-type water heater. And because there is no tank, the risk of tank leaks and water damage is never a concern.

Gas tankless water heaters are small and can be wall-mounted. Models can be purchased for outdoor installation, saving space in a garage, or utility room. If you opt for an electric model, voltage can range from 110V up to 277V. When installing an electric tankless heater, amperage is another factor to be considered. Your current wiring will need to support the electrical demands imposed by the electric tankless system. It may be necessary to have a separate circuit (or circuits) for your tankless unit, to avoid power interruptions.