

# Is Water Heating Making Your Utility Bills High?



Fifteen to twenty percent of your company's electric and gas bills may be impacted by heating water at your facility. If hot water is not essential to your business process, manufacturing or to meet food safety and health code requirements, consider ways to reduce the frequency and duration of time spent heating water and the temperature of that water. It can help you save energy and money.

Below is a table demonstrating how few hours most office and retail businesses (excluding food and health services) actually use hot water:

To get an accurate picture of just how much electricity and hot water your business is using, an electrician can install data logging equipment or a plumber can install a flow meter on the

water line. MACED has both types of equipment available in its equipment lending library. Go to [www.maced.org/E3/E3-equipment.htm](http://www.maced.org/E3/E3-equipment.htm)

To reduce the amount of time and energy spent heating water at your facility, consider these options:

- If you have an electric water heater, install a timer to control how often water is heating during the day.
- Turn down the temperature setting on your water heater.
- To prevent heat loss in hot water supply pipes, insulate with at least R-4 pipe insulation.
- To prevent heat loss in the hot water tank, wrap the tank in an especially designed insulation blanket.

## HOT WATER HEATING COMPARISON

Heating Frequency	Number of Days a Year		Number of Hours Per Day		Number of Hours Per Year	
Constantly	all year	365	hours in a day	24	hours a year	8760
During operating hours only	5 days a week, 52 weeks a year	260	operating hours	9	hours a year	2340
On demand only	5 days a week, 52 weeks a year	260	instantaneous	2	hours a year	520

