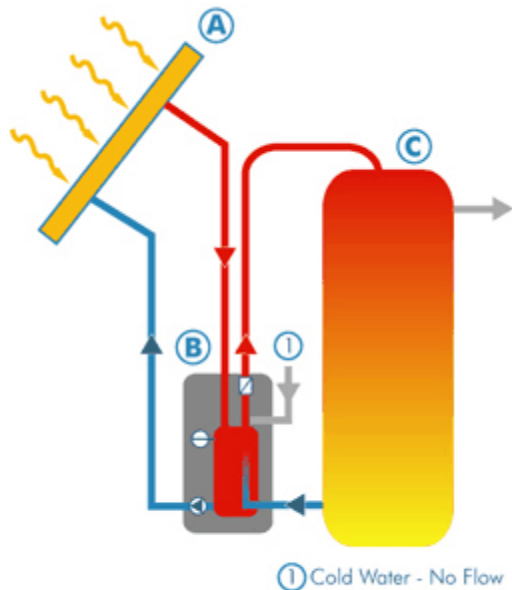


Solar Water Heaters – Quick Facts

How Does a Solar Water Heater Work? Should I Install One In My New Home?

Solar Water Heaters can save homeowners up to 50-80% on their water heating bills, and reduce dependence on natural resources. Here's a quick overview of how they work.



How Does a Solar Water Heater Work?

In the Raleigh area, most solar water heaters consist of **two large panels on the roof of the home.**

A series of pipes within the walls of the home **carry a solution** up to the solar panels, which is heated.

The heated solution is pumped through the **heat exchanger in a hot water tank**, usually located in the garage.

The heat exchanger heats the water in the hot water tank, then **recirculates back to the rooftop solar collectors.**

This cycle repeats - and **heated water in the hot water tank is now ready for use.**

What Type of Home Can Have a Solar Water Heater?

In order for a solar water heater to function properly, **there must be a roof area of at least 10'x10' that is south facing.** The two solar panels commonly installed to support a solar hot water heater are **each 4'x8'**, so the two panels together will need at least a large section with nice exposure to the sun.

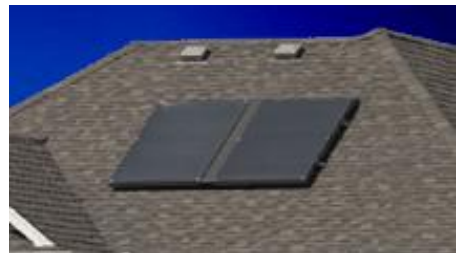
Before you purchase a lot or piece of land, **talk with your builder to make sure the home can be oriented** so that at least a portion of the roof has southern exposure, AND is not going to be too shaded by large trees.

When Do I Need To Decide To Install a Solar Water Heater?

The pipe system for a solar water heater that carries water or a solution to the roof to be heated **must be installed at the framing stage.**

After drywall has been installed, there will be additional costs, depending on where the pipes must go (ie how far is the garage from the suitable southern facing section of roof). Sections of drywall must be removed and then replaced in order to install the pipes - and additional costs will be involved if painting is already completed.

If at all possible, **talk to your builder before construction begins**, so that the home can be oriented for the best possible exposure. And be sure to check with the developer or homeowner's association, to make sure solar panels are allowed in your neighborhood.





How Can a Solar Water Heater Help the Environment?

Solar Energy is **clean, renewable energy that doesn't contribute to greenhouse gases.**

Solar Energy **reduces your dependence on other types of energy.**

Solar Energy **reduces your environmental impact.**

Why?

In North Carolina, 58% of energy comes from coal, and 32% comes from nuclear power.

Solar power reduces reliance on other sources of energy - and protects you from future cost increases for these types of energy.

[Southern Energy Management](#) has shared that **installing one solar water heating system prevents over 160,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering our atmosphere.** That's the equivalent in weight to 36 Ford Explorers!

Are There Other Options? "Solar Ready"

Not ready to "go solar" yet for your water heating needs?

Then ask your builder to make your new home "solar ready". Depending on the size and floor plan of the home, the cost is much lower - usually \$500-800.

Your builder will install all the necessary plumbing within the walls of your new Raleigh home. Then, when you're ready for solar powered water heating, you can have the system installed - without having to tear holes in the wall.

Have More Questions?

Contact your builder, call [Southern Energy Management](#) at 919-836-0330, or call Stanton Homes at 919-278-8070.

Find Out More About Building a Home in the Raleigh/Triangle Area

Stanton Homes offers "[Meet the Builder](#)" events, where any potential homebuyer can bring floor plans and ask an experienced, knowledgeable general contractor questions about building a new custom home or buying a lot.

And if you're a veteran, active duty, or retired military, ask about "[Stanton Homes for Heroes](#)" - [Military Discounts on New Homes](#).

Give us a call or visit our model home – open 12-4pm Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment.



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