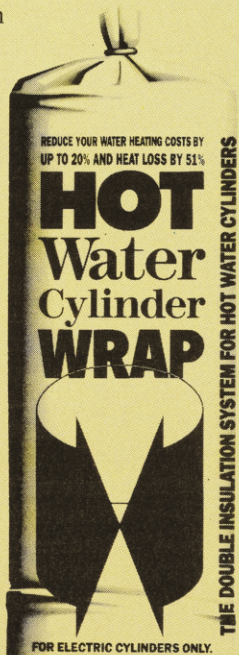


# Wrap up your Hot Water Cylinder

## HOW YOU CAN SAVE HOT WATER AND YOUR WALLET TOO!

- Hot Water Cylinder Wrap has been designed to enable the home handy person to increase the insulation of an existing hot water cylinder.
- The kit includes step-by-step instructions, tape and a complementary knife.
- An Energy Management (Ministry of Commerce) study indicated savings ranging from \$17 to \$87 per year (with an approximate average saving of \$50) for a 135 litre cylinder.
- It also keeps hot water hotter for longer in case of winter cuts to heating.
- Hot Water Cylinder Wrap is available from major building supply companies and insulation specialists.



Most people believe in energy efficiency. But belief is not enough – we have to put it into practice. Lack of factual information and uncertainty as to the existence of real benefits can be critical barriers to our implementing energy efficiency measures in our own homes. The following is the first of four articles that will present you with the facts and outline the real benefits of specific energy efficiency measures that you can take.

We have chosen electric hot water cylinder insulation wraps for our first example. Hot water was chosen as it is usually the single largest domestic energy cost. We will show how you can reduce this cost both for your own and for the country's benefit.

Your hot water system will use about 45% of your electricity. Nationally our hot water usage requires about 20% of the electricity generated in New Zealand. Of this, roughly 20% is lost from the walls of electric hot water cylinders.

That means that about 4% of the electricity we generate per year is lost from the walls of hot water cylinders. This is slightly more than 1,000 gigawatt hours or roughly equivalent to the annual output of the Wairakei geothermal power station. This heat loss costs consumers in the order of \$120,000,000 per year.

Tests conducted by Energy Management, Ministry of Commerce, indicate that fitting an insulation wrap to older cylinders or new cylinders that don't meet the 1988 insulation standard, will reduce heat loss by up to a half.

If half of these pre-1988 standard cylinders were fitted with an insulation wrap, the saving would amount to approximately 135 gigawatt hours. This is about as much power as would be required to heat water for 100 million showers.

So you can see that a little saving by enough individuals can easily add up to a lot nationally. Insulating our nation's hot water cylinders is clearly good for our country.

Best of all it saves you money. Tests conducted by Energy Management found a range of annual savings from \$17 to \$87 for 135 litre hot water cylinders. The saving varies depending on individual circumstances. Situations where cylinders are poorly insulated, set at a high temperature and located in a cold draughty place give the greatest saving.

Ready-to-go insulation wrap kits are available for a recommended retail price of \$75. Based on the above test results, the wrap will, on average, pay for itself in 18 months. At the best, it may pay for itself in less than a year and at the very worst it will pay for itself in five years. So you see, you can't lose. Further savings can be obtained by insulating the first few metres of pipe from the cylinder. Foam tubing is ideal but offcuts from the wrap also work well.

**SO THERE IT IS! GO TO IT!**

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