

Building Energy Asset Score: Building Upgrade Guide¹

SERVICE HOT WATER SYSTEMS

Water heating systems should be sized to meet the anticipated peak hot-water load of the building. Some equipment recommendations may suggest implementing the same type of equipment; this implies installing a newer and more efficient version. Recommendations that suggest installing a new water heater imply replacing the existing water heater with one that has an efficiency level that is compliant with current code; whereas recommendations that suggest upgrading to a high-efficiency water heater imply replacing the current water heater with one that has an efficiency level that exceeds the current code.

Hot Water System Improvements

Asset Score Report Recommendation:

- **Improve performance of existing system**
- **Add low flow faucets**

Cost \$\$

System efficiency may be improved by insulating the existing storage tank (e.g., adding an insulation blanket) and pipes (e.g., for pipes with a diameter less than 1.5 in, insulate by 1 in.; otherwise, insulate by 1.5 in.), installing faucet aerators and flow-reducing shower heads (where applicable), and decreasing service hot water temperature where viable.

¹ The complete Asset Score Building Upgrade Guide is available at:

https://buildingenergyscore.energy.gov/assets/energy_asset_score_recommendations_guide.pdf