

# Hot Water Efficiency Improvement

This playbook outlines a series of steps for enhancing the efficiency of hot water heating systems. It focuses on incremental improvements, starting with basic insulation efforts and extending through to system upgrades.

## Step 1: **Inspection**

Inspect the hot water system, including the tank, pipes, and outlets, for any signs of damage or inefficiency (such as leaks or outdated equipment).

## Step 2: **Insulating Pipes**

Install insulation around accessible hot water pipes to minimize heat loss and improve the system's efficiency.

## Step 3: **Tank Insulation**

Wrap the hot water tank with an insulating blanket to retain heat and reduce energy consumption necessary to maintain water temperature.

## Step 4: **Temperature Setting**

Adjust the hot water heater's thermostat to the optimal temperature recommended for efficiency, often around 120°F (49°C), which is sufficient for most household needs.

## Step 5: **Fix Leaks**

Identify and repair any leaks in the hot water system to prevent heat loss and water wastage.

## Step 6: **Upgrade Fixtures**

Replace older fixtures, such as faucets and showerheads, with low-flow, energy-efficient models to reduce water use and the need for heating.

## Step 7: **System Upgrade**

Consider upgrading to a more efficient hot water heater or a tankless on-demand system if the current system is old and less efficient.

# **General Notes**

## **Professional Assessment**

Hire a professional to assess your hot water system if unsure about what improvements can be made or if your system is significantly old or complex.

## **Rebates and Incentives**

Look into governmental rebates and incentives that may be available for energy-efficient upgrades to your hot water system.

## **Regular Maintenance**

Engage in regular maintenance of your hot water system to ensure optimal ongoing efficiency. This includes annual inspections and flushing of the tank to remove sediment.

