



# Efficient Water Systems

City of Huntington Beach Green Building Tips

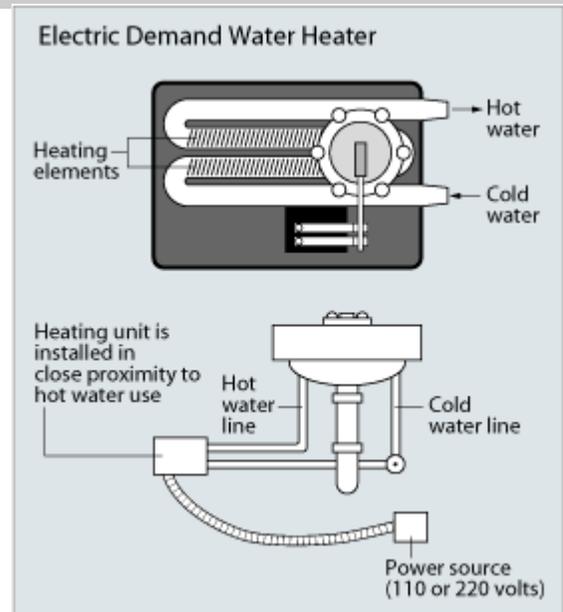
## Water-Saving Bathroom

The 1995 National Energy Policy Act, in addition to dealing with radioactive waste disposal and metallurgical coal development, also determined that new toilets must flush with no more than 1.6 gallons of water. After some early problems due to uninspired designs by manufacturers, low-flush toilets have evolved to become just as effective as older models, while using much less water. Caroma, an Australian company, makes a toilet that offers even more opportunity to save water: push one button for flushing liquid waste (.8 gallons of water) and another for solid waste (1.6 gallons). Since NEPA went into effect, other low-flow plumbing fixtures including faucet aerators and showerheads have been developed that save substantial amounts of water compared to conventional fixtures while providing the same utility. Conventional faucet aerators don't compensate for changes in inlet pressure, so the greater the water pressure, the more water you use. New technology compensates for pressure and provides the same flow regardless of pressure. Aerators are also available that allow water to be turned off at the aerator itself. Showerheads use similar aerator technology and multiple flow settings to save water.



## Tankless Water Heaters

“Tankless” water heaters, also called Instantaneous or Demand water heaters, heat water directly without the use of a storage tank. Therefore, they avoid the standby energy losses associated with traditional “storage” water heaters. When a hot water tap is turned on, cold water travels through a pipe into the unit. In an electric tankless water heater an electric element heats the water. In a gas-fired tankless water heater a gas burner heats the water. As a result tankless water heaters deliver a constant supply of hot water. Also, you will never need to wait for a storage tank to fill up again after your sister finally gets out of the shower.



Information derived from US Department of Energy  
<http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/>  
<http://www.energystar.gov>



Products bearing the Energy Star logo have been certified as meeting stringent energy efficiency guidelines established by the US Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency.



**Community Development Department**  
 2000 Main Street, Third Floor  
 Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
 Planning: 714.536.5271  
 Building & Safety: 714.536.5241  
[www.surfcity-hb.org](http://www.surfcity-hb.org)