



Solar Hot Water Rebate Programme **Frequently Asked Questions**

What is the Solar Hot Water Rebate Programme?

The Australian Government solar hot water rebate programme encourages switching to alternative hot water technologies by addressing the up-front cost barriers to greenhouse friendly systems, which also deliver low operating costs for the household.

Rebates of \$1,000 are available to install solar and heat pump hot water systems in existing homes.

Electric storage hot water systems are the most greenhouse intensive of household hot water systems, generating the largest amount of greenhouse gas emissions. The programme aims to replace these systems with greenhouse friendly technologies.

The rebate is to help households replace existing electric storage hot water systems. Rebates are not applicable for replacing older solar hot water systems.

When can I apply for a rebate?

You can apply for an Australian Government rebate if your solar hot water system was installed after 17 July 2007.

What is the deadline for applications?

Applicants must apply for the rebate within three months of installing an eligible system. However, if you installed an eligible system after 17 July 2007 and up to 1 September 2007, you have until 1 December 2007 to submit your rebate application form.

Can I apply for the rebate if I am renting?

Yes. The system for which a rebate is being claimed must be installed at a principal place of residence. An applicant can be the owner or the tenant of the dwelling.

A tenant should not install a system without approval from the owner of the dwelling. The sharing of costs other than the rebate between the landlord and the tenant is a matter for you to negotiate.

Regardless of whether you are an owner or a tenant, all other eligibility requirements must be met.

Are rebates available for new homes?

Rebates are not available for new homes. For optimum environmental benefit, the Australian Government rebate has been designed to specifically help households replace the worst greenhouse performing products with technologies that are greenhouse friendly.

State governments currently are responsible for determining which hot water systems can be installed on new homes.

Can I still apply for other State or Territory rebates?

Yes. The Australian Government rebate application will not be affected by any rebates that other governments may offer.

Can I get the rebate for a system I install on my investment property?

Yes. The system for which a rebate is being claimed must be installed at a principal place of residence. There is no requirement that this principal place of residence is that of the applicant for the rebate.

The sharing of costs other than the rebate between the landlord and the tenant is a matter for you to negotiate. Regardless of whether you are an owner or a tenant, all other eligibility requirements must be met.

Are rebates available for holiday homes?

Rebates are not available for holiday homes. To ensure the largest environmental benefit will be achieved, the rebate programme has been designed to replace electric storage hot water systems in principal places of residence.

Is the rebate means tested?

There is a cap of \$100,000 on the applicant's family taxable income to help ensure that rebates go to Australian families who most need assistance.

Taxable family income is determined by combining the taxable income of the applicant and their spouse in the most recent completed tax year. The family income test does not include income derived by any other person residing at the dwelling of the applicant.

Although no supporting documentation is required to make an application for the rebate, you may be required to provide suitable evidence of family taxable income at a future date. Suitable evidence of taxable family income may include the respective Notice of Assessment produced by the Australian Taxation Office.

What is a Registered Agent?

A Registered Agent is an organisation or individual authorised by the Australian Government to provide information that verifies system technical details for rebate applications.

Major suppliers of solar and heat pump hot water systems are likely to be Registered Agents.

A full list of Registered Agents who have elected to make their information public can be found at www.greenhouse.gov.au/rebates

When will my payment be credited to my account?

For successful applicants payment will be credited directly to a nominated Australian bank account within 6 to 8 weeks of receiving a completed application form.

Am I still eligible for the Australian Government's Photovoltaic Rebate Programme (PVRP)?

Yes. The PVRP offers rebates of up to \$8,000 for the installation of photovoltaic systems in certain circumstances. If you meet the eligibility requirements of that programme, which differ from those for the solar hot water rebate, you may qualify for both rebates.