# Flat plate collector water heater

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In ourGuide to Choosing a Solar Water Heater, we talked about different types ofsolar water heaterssuch as active, passive, thermosyphon, and drainback systems. In this article, we discuss another key component of any solar water heating system: solar thermal collectors. These solar energy products are important as resellers often classify solar water heaters based on collectors. In this learning article, we compare and contrast the two main kinds ofsolar thermal collectors: flat plate heaters and evacuated tube heaters.

You should look at the absorber area ratio. This is defined as the absorber size divided by the gross size. The ratio for flat plate collectors is generally above 90% while the ratio for evacuated tube collectors usually stays between 60%-80%. Therefore two collectors with the same gross size may have very different overall efficiencies depending on whether they are flat plate or evacuated tube. The flat plat collector, though it is less efficient per absorbing unit, may perform just as well as its competitor due to a larger absorber area.

These tables are only meant to convey a general idea of how the two systems differ. You should consult your manufacturer for further information on your specific solar water heater. Equipped with the information from this article, you should be able to make an informed decision on which solar collector is right for your solar energy system.

Solar hot water is an affordable, effective form of clean, renewable energy that can be taken advantage of by every homeowner in America. Using solar flat plate collectors, you can take advantage of the sun"s abundant energy to lower your own energy costs. This means lower bills every month, free hot water for your home, and more energy independence.

Solar flat plate collectors are an affordable solution to rising energy costs. Solar flat plates are long lasting, durable, and cost effective. Flat plate collectors are traditionally used in warmer, sunnier climates. For cooler, cloudier areas, and areas that have long, cold winters, you may wish to consider our solar evacuated tube collectors.

Installing a solar flat plate water heating system for your home can reduce your energy consumption by as much as 40% to 50%. It only takes 1 or 2 solar flat plates to heat over 80 gallons of hot water per day - all for free.

Many people don"t realize how much energy is used just to provide hot water in your home. In fact, 20% to 25% of the average family"s energy consumption is just for heating water for things like laundry, cooking, cleaning, dishes, and showers.

Installing a solar flat plate system would mean significantly reducing - or eliminating - these costs. Furthermore, our solar hot water systems qualify for the Federal 30% tax credit, meaning that 30% of the

installed cost of your solar hot water system is returned to you the next time you file your taxes. This means less out of pocket expense, and a faster rate of return on the costs of your solar water heating system.

A solar flat plate water heating system is a very simple and maintenance free way to immediately reduce your monthly energy costs. Both evacuated tube systems and flat plate solar hot water systems work in a similar manner.

This fluid passes through the inside of the solar collector, where it is heated with the sun"s energy (3). The flat plate collectors are very well insulated, allowing them to trap quite a bit of the sun"s heat, while letting very little escape.

This is just one of the more common designs used in a home solar hot water system. Other designs are available, and can be used depending on your specific application.

In the average American home, over 25% of energy consumption comes from heating water. This hot water is often used for cooking, washing dishes, laundry, showers, and cleaning. A solar hot water system is an ideal solution to reduce ever rising energy costs.

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