



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Solar Hot Water Rebate Program **Plumbers Guide**

\$1000 Solar Hot Water Rebate

The Australian Government Solar Hot Water Rebate Program provides a \$1,000 rebate to eligible applicants who replace an existing electric storage hot water system with a solar or heat pump hot water system.

Licensed plumbers have an important role in the rebate application process. Plumbers need to complete and sign part of their customer's application form at the time of system installation. Completing these parts of the application form is straight forward and only takes a few minutes.

The information provided by plumbers is used by the Australian Government to verify certain eligibility requirements for the rebate.

How the rebate process works

1. Solar or heat pump system is purchased by the customer.
2. The customer obtains an Applicant Information Booklet from the internet, their retailer, their installer or by calling 1800 808 571. The application form for the rebate is in this booklet.
3. At the time of installation the installing licensed plumber completes and signs their parts of the Solar Hot Water Rebate application form.
4. The applicant (usually the purchaser of the system) completes their parts of the application form and submits the application to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).
5. DEWHA receives and assesses each application.
6. Rebates are paid directly into the bank accounts of successful applicants.

What you need to do

You need to fill out two sections of your customer's application form for the rebate.

Section 3 of the application form asks you to record the following information:

- Date the new system was installed and fully operational;
- That the new solar or heat pump hot water system replaced an existing electric storage hot water system;
- The new tank serial number; and
- That the new hot water system is worth at least 20 Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). For more information see www.orer.gov.au

Section 4 of the application form asks you to certify that the information provided in Section 3 is correct. You will need to provide your name, company, license number, the state you are registered in and sign and date this part of the form.

The Applicant Information Booklet contains the rebate guidelines, eligibility criteria and rebate application form. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts encourages you to distribute copies of the Applicant Information Booklet whenever a new solar or heat pump hot water system replaces an electric storage hot water system.

Things you should know

The rebate is only paid directly into the bank accounts of successful applicants once the installation is completed and the application for the rebate approved by the Australian Government. The rebate is not available as a Point of Sale discount.

The rebate is stand alone. Eligibility is not affected by RECs or State or Territory rebate schemes. Applicants are free to apply for RECs and other rebate schemes.

Plumbers are only required to certify the information that they have provided in Sections 3 and 4 of the application form. Plumbers are not required to verify or certify any other information provided on an application form by an individual applicant.

Major eligibility criteria for the rebate

- ✓ Applicants must be an individual over the age of 18 who is the owner or tenant of the dwelling where the hot water system is installed.
- ✓ Applicants have up to 6 months to apply for the rebate from the time of system installation.
- ✓ The applicant's taxable family income (combined income of the applicant and any spouse in the most recently completed tax year) must be less than \$100,000.
- ✓ The hot water system must replace an existing electric storage hot water system previously operational at the dwelling.
- ✓ The hot water system must be a new and complete solar or heat pump hot water system eligible for at least 20 RECs.
- ✓ The hot water system must be installed on an existing dwelling, not a new home.

The Solar Hot Water Rebate Applicant Information Booklet containing application forms and guidelines can be obtained by visiting www.environment.gov.au/solarhotwater or by calling 1800 808 571.

Why your customers should go solar

Help fight climate change

More and more people are concerned about climate change and how they can do their bit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Switch to clean and green technology

One of the simplest and most effective steps people can take is to replace their existing electric storage hot water system with a solar or heat pump system.

A solar hot water system will cut a household's greenhouse gas emissions by up to 30 per cent.

Save on energy bills

A solar hot water system will also save a household \$300-\$700 a year off their electricity bills.

High upfront purchase costs may seem expensive to many. But once various government rebates, RECs and electricity costs are taken into account, every household ends up ahead over the life of the solar hot water system.

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