



Turn off water heater when away

Why? Water heating accounts for about 17% of a typical home's energy use. A standard water heater keeps hot water available at all times in its tank. If you are away from home for several days, turning off your water heater will save a considerable amount of energy and cost.

Step by step:

1. **Plan ahead.** If you plan to be away for three or more days, remember to turn the water heater's thermostat down to the lowest setting or turn it completely off.
2. **Turn it down or off.**
 - **Electric water heater:** To turn it down, use the temperature dial on the water heater. To turn it off, switch off the circuit breaker to which it's connected.
 - **Natural gas water heater:** If you do not know how to relight the pilot light, it's best to just turn it down or to "vacation mode," not off.
3. **Turn it back on.** When you return, restore your water heater to the normal temperature — 120°F is sufficient for most homes.