

## Water Heater Changes for 2015 Courtesy of Cameo Home Inspection Services

The new 2015 DOE energy efficiency mandates will require higher EF ratings on virtually all residential gas, electric and oil fired water heaters. These changes will have an impact on how water heaters are designed, manufactured, tested, distributed, and installed. The energy factor (EF) indicates a water heater's overall energy efficiency based on the amount of hot water produced per unit of fuel consumed over a typical day. The higher the EF, the more energy efficient the water heater. The effect of the new requirements will vary depending on the fuel source and volume of the water heater. These changes may be relatively minor in some cases and more radical on larger volume products. Both gas and electric units will be required to be better insulated, thus increasing size. This all becomes effective April 15, 2015.



### NAECA 2015—What Does It Mean To You?

#### Water Heaters Under 55 Gallons

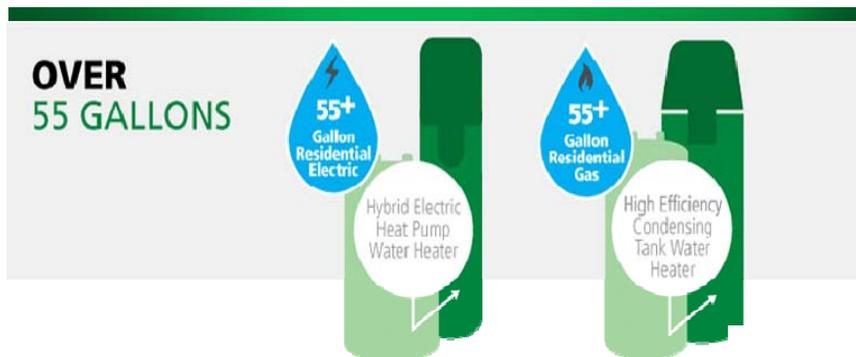


The height of a new unit with the same gallon capacity as an existing unit may be two or more inches taller

The diameter of a new unit that has the same gallon capacity as an existing unit may be two or more inches wider

For units under 55 gallons, add a minimum of three or more inches when planning the space

#### Water Heaters Over 55 Gallons



Water heaters that are larger than 55 gallons will undergo the biggest changes. They may require more space or potentially switching models.

All residential electric models over 55 gallons must be of the Hybrid Electric heat pump water heater type design

All residential gas models over 55 gallons must be of the condensing water heater type design

#### A note about heat pump type water heaters

An air source heat pump water heater pulls heat from the surrounding air and 'dumps' this heat at a higher temperature into the tank to heat the water. They require installations in locations that remain 40 - 90 deg F year around and provide at least 1000 cubic feet of air space around the water heater. The appliance tends to cool the space it is in and does not function efficiently in a cold space. There are combination systems that pull heat from either indoor air or outdoor air. Regardless of the system, it will work more efficiently in warm climates.