

South Australian residential water heater requirements

Plumbing Advisory Note

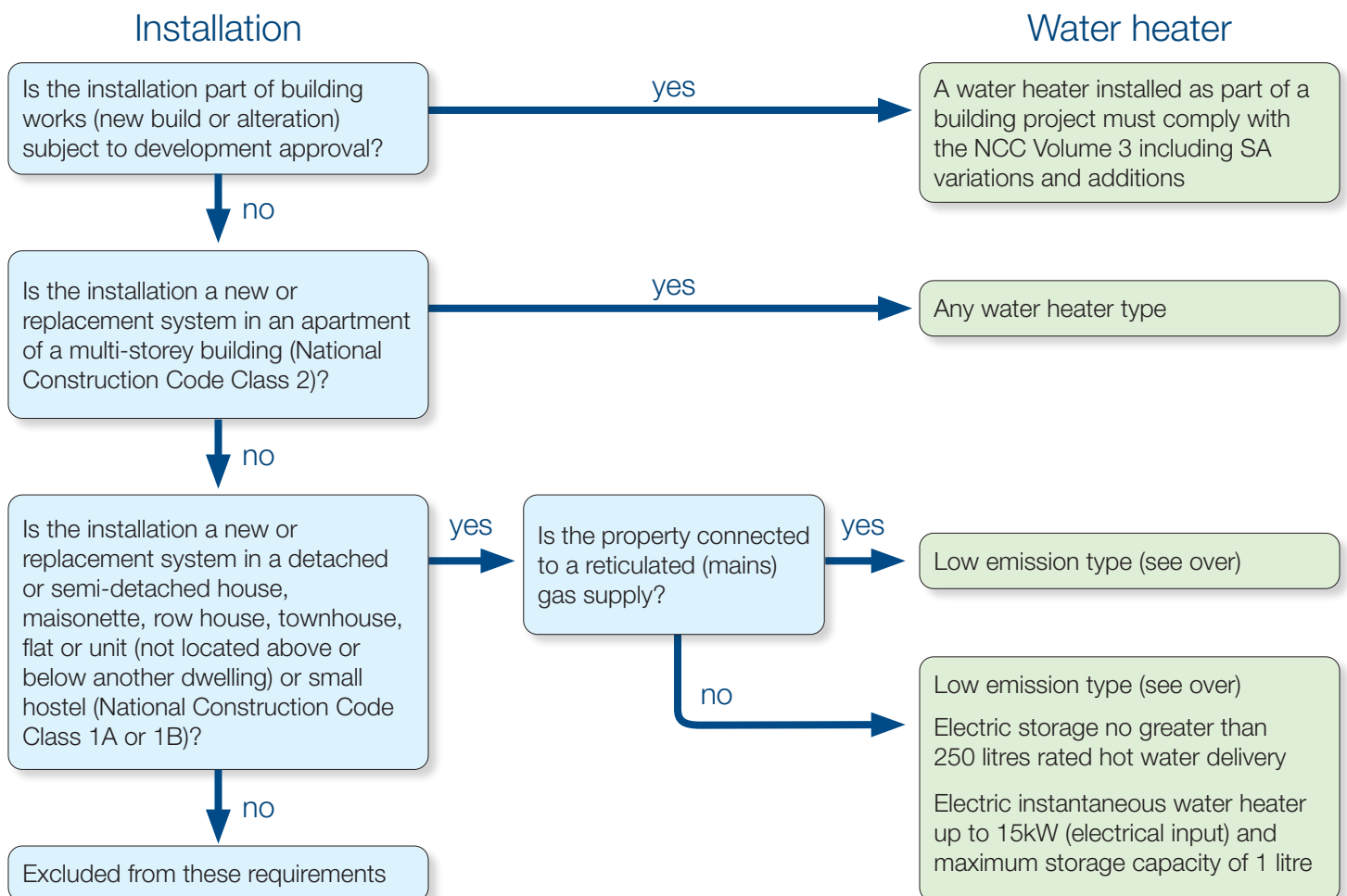
Revised March 2021

The aim of this advisory note is to help you understand the types of water heaters you can install in homes.

This guide supersedes the August 2009 'Plumbers' Guide – Installing Domestic Water Heaters'.

Rules relating to domestic water heater installations have been in place in South Australia since July 2008 to help lower household energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The rules apply in both metropolitan and regional areas across the state.

Types of water heaters that can be installed



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Low emission water heater types

Type of water heater	Requirements												
Solar – electric boosted (single tank) or Electric heat pump (single tank)	You can install a water heater meeting either zone requirement anywhere in South Australia.												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rated hot water delivery</th> <th>Zone 3</th> <th>Zone 4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>220 litres or less</td> <td>17 STCs or more</td> <td>16 STCs or more</td> </tr> <tr> <td>220 litres and less than 400 litres</td> <td>27 STCs or more</td> <td>26 STCs or more</td> </tr> <tr> <td>400 litres or more and less than 700 litres</td> <td>38 STCs or more</td> <td>36 STCs or more</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rated hot water delivery	Zone 3	Zone 4	220 litres or less	17 STCs or more	16 STCs or more	220 litres and less than 400 litres	27 STCs or more	26 STCs or more	400 litres or more and less than 700 litres	38 STCs or more	36 STCs or more
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<i>STCs (Small-scale Technology Certificates) are based on Clean Energy Regulator zones. More information can be found online at cleanenergyregulator.gov.au</i>													
Gas instantaneous, continuous flow or storage – bottled or mains	Must have an energy rating of 5 stars or more. If you are installing a gas water heater entirely within a fully enclosed roof space, room or attached garage of an established home, it must have a 3-star or higher energy rating. This option is not available for water heaters installed as part of building work that requires development approval.												
Solar – gas boosted	Eligible for 1 or more STC and total tank volume of 700 litres or less.												
Solar – wood boosted	Any water heater can be installed, provided it has no additional heating mechanisms and a tank volume of 700 litres or less												
Wood combustion	Any water heater can be installed, provided it has no additional heating mechanisms and a tank volume of 700 litres or less												

Water efficiency (flow rate) requirements

Each time you install a water heater (except excluded installations – see below), you must ensure all shower outlets connected to it have a flow rate no greater than 9 litres per minute. This can be achieved by using a WELS 3-star shower head, a WELS 3-star flow restrictor or a gravity-fed (vented) water heater.

Installations excluded from the water heater requirements

- Non-residential premises — for example, commercial premise, shop, school, office building
- Serving only a shed, garage or swimming pool
- A secondary electric storage water heater up to 55 litres that doesn't serve a shower or bath
- Shared between multiple units, flats or apartments in a multi-storey apartment building
- An electric storage water heater up to 55 litres providing temporary water heating for up to 60 days, pending installation of a complying water heater
- An electric or gas gravity-fed water heater up to 250 litres rated hot water delivery located in a roof space
- Replacing a single faulty component in an existing solar or heat pump water heater
- Repairs to an existing water heater or replacing a water heater under warranty.

Further help and advice for plumbers

This Plumbing Advisory Note provides an overview of the new South Australian residential water heater requirements. For further information, and the full South Australian Water Heater Requirements, visit sa.gov.au/otrplumbing or call the Plumbers' Water Heater Information Line on 1300 883 019.

Contact the Office of the Technical Regulator for more information

Online sa.gov.au/otrplumbing

Email otr.plumbregulator@sa.gov.au

Phone 1300 760 311



Government of
South Australia