

# Tankless Water Heater Buyer's Guide

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## Cost Summary

Item	Cost Range
Tank water heater (installed)	\$1,200 - \$2,500
Tankless water heater (installed)	\$3,500 - \$6,500
Gas line upgrade (if needed)	\$400 - \$1,200
Venting (condensing models)	\$200 - \$600
Permits (Calgary)	\$100 - \$200
Annual energy cost (tank)	\$300 - \$450/yr
Annual energy cost (tankless)	\$180 - \$280/yr

## Pros and Cons Checklist

- ✓ Continuous hot water supply (no tank to empty)
- ✓ 20+ year lifespan vs 8-12 years for tanks
- ✓ 24-34% energy savings on hot water costs
- ✓ Wall-mounted, frees up floor space
- ✓ No risk of tank flooding or water damage
- ✗ Higher upfront cost (\$3,500-\$6,500 installed)
- ✗ May require gas line upgrade (\$400-\$1,200)
- ✗ Calgary hard water demands annual descaling
- ✗ Reduced flow rate in extreme winter cold
- ✗ Not ideal for very small households (1-2 people)

## Maintenance Schedule

Task	Frequency	Notes
Vinegar flush (descale)	Annually	Critical in Calgary's hard water (165-210 ppm)
Inlet filter cleaning	Every 6 months	Prevents flow restriction from sediment
Venting inspection	Annually	Check for blockage and frozen condensate drain
Error code check	As needed	Call for service on ignition or flow codes
Water softener maintenance	Per manufacturer	Extends heat exchanger life significantly

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