

PLAN AHEAD TO UPGRADE TO SOLAR WHEN YOUR GEYSER NEXT BURSTS

1. SELECT YOUR SOLAR WATER HEATER AND ACCREDITED SERVICE PROVIDER

Approach service providers for quotes

Speak to a number of City-accredited service providers (saveelectricity.org.za/pages/asp.php) and get a quote for a solar water heater that best suits your needs. If you know you are not going to have the solar water heater installed until your geyser bursts, let your preferred Accredited Service Provider know this.

Choose the right system for your needs

Every family is different, every home is different. There are also many different kinds of systems and you may find it helpful to have some familiarity with the different options out there (saveelectricity.org.za/pages/faqs_and_testimonials.php). Your Accredited Service Provider will advise you regarding the best options to suit your specific needs and together you can make the right decision.

Check response time

Confirm with your Accredited Service Provider how quickly they will be able to install the solar water heater after your geyser bursts. Many Accredited Service Providers offer 48 - or even 24-hour installation after a burst geyser.

Keep a hard copy

Print out the quotation from your Accredited Service Provider and attach it to the information you record on the back of this page. Keep this in a safe place that's easy to access so you can call right away after the burst geyser.

Update quotes and choice of system

Check back with your Accredited Service Provider every 6 to 12 months to confirm the cost estimates and that the technologies have not changed in a way that might affect your household. Get an updated quote, including another site visit from an Accredited Service Provider if required.

Notes



2. UNDERSTAND YOUR INSURANCE AND THE BENIFITS OF A PAYOUT

Check cover and replacement values

Thoroughly check your insurance policy wording and confirm that you are appropriately covered for the replacement costs of the geyser, any burst pipes and resultant damage to ceilings, walls, carpets, lighting and electrical wiring, etc.

Be sure to check coverage of both buildings and household contents. A buildings policy covers bricks and mortar and fixtures in the home (e.g., geyser, pipes, ceilings, etc). Household contents cover is separate and insures items such as furniture or appliances damaged by water.

Check upgrade to solar option

Some insurers already offer the option to replace a damaged geyser with a solar water heater or heat pump, allowing the client to pay in the difference between the insurance pay out and the cost of the more energy-efficient water heating system. Check if your insurer provides/allows for this option already.

Request for payout option to go solar

If yes to the previous point, then confirm with your insurance company that your preferred Accredited Service Provider is suitably accredited as a plumber to respond to a burst geyser situation.

Many insurers allow the payout value for replacing the geyser to be given in cash if requested. This can then be applied to the purchase of a solar water heater or heat pump as part of a down payment to reduce the amount that would need to be financed. Applying your insurance payout drops the average payback period for a solar water heater by more than a third, even if you have to finance it. This adds substantially to your savings, given the typical lifespan for a solar water heater is 15 years, and can be much more if properly maintained. Typically, a 200-litre solar water heater can provide savings of about R4 600 or more per year to a household of 4 people.

Don't let the need for financing be a barrier to upgrading to a solar water heater either, as there are also rental options from some Accredited Service Providers.

Record below the information you will need, attach a printed quote from your Accredited Service Provider, and keep this in a safe place where you'll be sure to find it quickly if your geyser bursts. The few minutes it takes to do this now can save you from headaches - and save you money - in the future.

Name of Accredited Service Provider:	
Contact person:	
Contact number:	
Contact e-mail:	
Date quote received:	
Quote reference number:	
Insurance company contact number:	
Insurance policy number:	

For more information on the City's Accredited Solar Water Heater programme and how you can save electricity, visit www.SavingElectricity.org.za



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