

# Solar Hot Water

When there is enough sunlight, a heat transfer fluid, such as water or glycol, is pumped through the collector. As the fluid passes through the collector, it is heated by the sun. The heated fluid is then circulated to a heat exchanger, which transfers the energy into the water tank. When the homeowner uses hot water, cold water from the main water supply enters the bottom of the solar storage tank. Solar heated water at the top of the storage tank flows into the conventional water heater and then to the taps. If the water at the top of the solar storage tank is hot enough, no further heating is necessary. If the solar heated water is only warm (after an extended cloudy period), the conventional water heater brings the water up to the desired temperature. Many solar water heaters use a small solar electric (photovoltaic) module to power the pump needed to circulate the heat transfer fluid through the collectors.

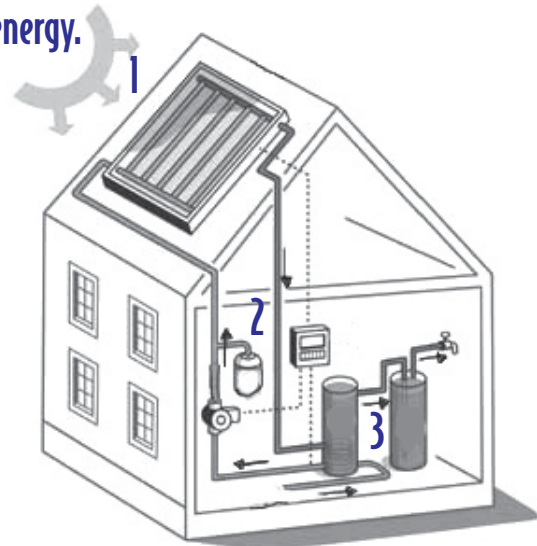
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**Water heating is one of the most cost-effective uses of solar energy.**



## Components:

1. Solar collector, which converts solar radiation into useable heat.
2. Heat exchanger/pump module, which transfers the heat from the solar collector into the potable water.
3. Storage tank to store the solar heated water.

