



SOLAR WATER HEATING BUYER'S GUIDE

**8 THINGS YOU WANT TO CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING
A SOLAR WATER HEATER**

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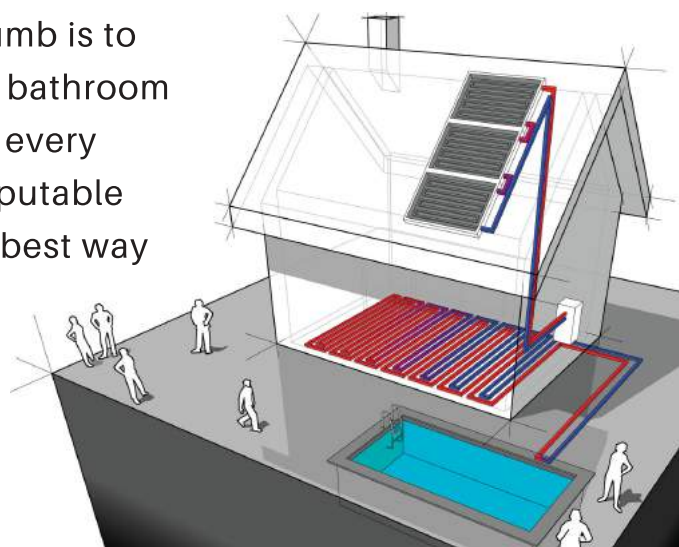


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WHAT YOU NEED IT FOR

The main factor to consider when planning your purchase is what you need your solar water heater for. Is it to supply your bathrooms? Or your kitchen sink? Is it for a private home? A hotel? A B&B? Solar water heaters aren't instant heaters and sizing is one of the most critical factors for a successful installation. A rule of thumb is to provide approximately 50 liters per person for a bathroom and 25 liters for a kitchen for domestic use. Yet, every situation might be slightly different. Asking a reputable professional to do a sizing for you is always the best way to go.





HOW YOU WILL SUPPLY WATER

Solar water heaters need a constant water supply at the right pressure to function optimally. So how you are supplying the water is something to bear in mind. Gravity-fed applications work differently than pump-fed ones. But there is more. You need to make sure that the tank you are choosing can take the pressure you are feeding it with if you want a reliable and long lasting application. Non pressurized tanks are the cheapest on the market but cannot be pump-fed so always be careful and don't be fooled simply by crazy low prices. There are different types of solar water heaters and the difference in price is caused by different factors. If you want to learn more about the different types of solar water heaters, you can read more [here](#).





WATER TYPES AND QUALITY

Knowing whether your water source is soft or hard is essential. Direct systems are a better choice for soft water and indirect system is recommended for hard water. Water with a high mineral content is normally described as hard water. This water type has corrosive properties when heated and using an indirect system is crucial to prevent to the collectors and tank.

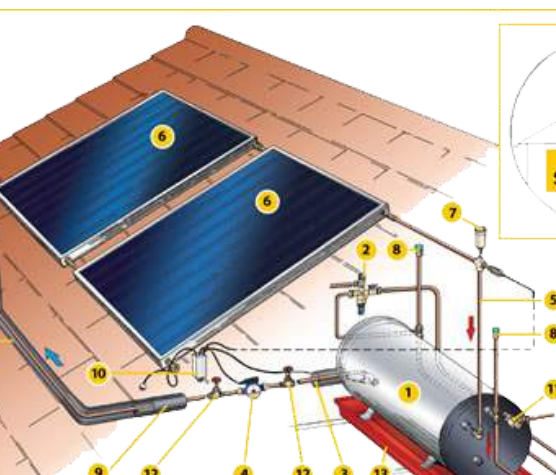




WHERE YOU WANT TO INSTALL IT

Do you have enough space on your roof? Is your roof strong enough for a compact system (the systems that come with the storage tank attached to the solar panel) or is it better you place the lighter panel on the roof and keep your storage elsewhere? Is there a good place receiving enough sunlight where the system can be placed? All varieties of solar water heaters don't like shade, I'm afraid...

Last but not least, does the tank on the roof bothers you? Are you afraid to damage your precious special tiles you have imported from some far away land? For each of your worries there is a solution. What's important is considering all these factors upfront in order to take an informed decision and find the best solution for your situation.





WHAT'S THE WEATHER LIKE

Solar water heaters, contrary to common knowledge, don't fear cold. But they love a nice spot in the sun, so it's important you install them where there isn't a thick vegetation that prevents the light to go through or where they are shaded by constructions of other things. If you live in an area where the weather is often cloudy, don't fear! There are specific models that perform very well in those conditions as well. Remember, they work in northern Europe and North America, so they will work in Africa, promise!





YOUR BUDGET

Delicate subject. Always. As we mentioned previously, there are many types of products to serve different pockets, so rest reassured that you will find something for you. But let me give you a piece of advice. Solar Water Heating is a structural investment you are doing for your home or your business and you need to think long term. Quality is always better than low quality. A higher priced appliance lasting 20 years is certainly cheaper than a more economic one, breaking down in 1 year.

HOW MUCH
CAN YOU
SAVE





WHO YOU ARE BUYING FROM

And here we come to another critical point. When it comes to choosing, the supplier is key. Because, of course there are things to look out for to establish the quality of the product you are presented with; yet, time is the only real factor that can vouch for real quality and choosing an established, reputable supplier will guarantee you that products have been tested out, that natural selection has taken its course and that what you are being offered is the result of years of tests and trials. Watch out for the warranties they offer. It always speaks loud about the confidence they have in their products.





THE AFTERMATHS. MAINTENANCE AND WARRANTY

Nothing is more frustrating of having invested quite a bit of money in something that nobody wants to repair or maintain once you have completed the purchase and brought it home. A good quality solar water heater has an approximate lifespan of 20 years and therefore, it's better you engage in a relationship with a company that is willing to assist, possibly one that strongly believes in maintenance and in establishing long term relationships with its clients. Said so, watch out for those companies that proudly tell you that their systems don't require any maintenance. You can bet it's in their business model to sell and then walk away from their client and you might also raise an eyebrow, or two, on their marketing strategies. Nothing is maintenance free. Nor your car, your body or your wife or husband for that matter! Things need to be cared for and maintained if they are to last and however it's true that solar water heaters are very low maintenance appliances, they are certainly no exception!



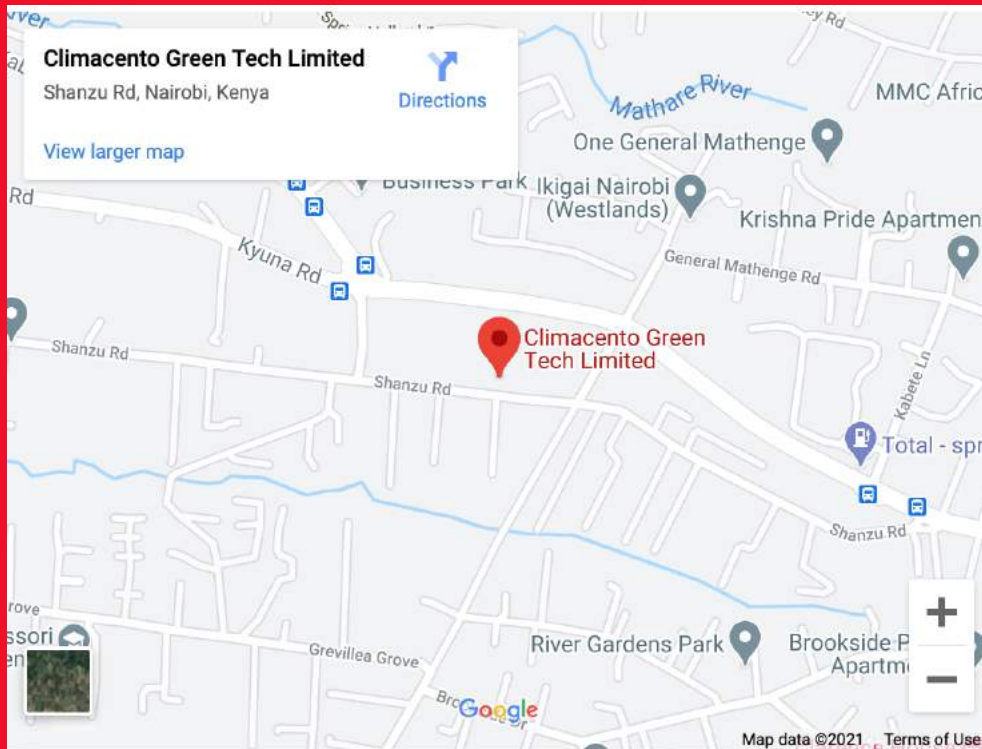
EVEN BETTER

LET US TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING

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