

NEW ACT LEGISLATION ON ENERGY EFFICIENT HOT WATER SYSTEMS

Under legislation passed last year, all new buildings in the ACT must now comply with new hot water standards. Primarily designed to promote the use of solar and more energy efficient hot water systems, the legislation effectively bans the installation of electric storage units greater than 80 litres. It also requires a minimum 5-star energy rating for gas hot water units, and it sets out the number of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) required for solar and heat pump installations.

The legislation also requires that each shower head connected to the hot water system can deliver no more than 9 litres per minute.

Below is a summary of the new requirements:

A person who installs or replaces a hot water unit in a Class 1 building must ensure that the new unit is one of the following:

a. Gas Hot Water System	May be Storage or Continuous Flow but must have minimum energy rating of 5 stars
b. Heat Pump Hot Water System	1 or 2 bedroom Dwellings – Must have at least 14 RECs 3 or 4 bedroom dwellings – Must have at least 22 RECs 5 or more bedroom dwellings – Must have at least 28 RECs
c. Solar Hot Water System	1 or 2 bedroom Dwellings - Must have at least 14 RECs 3 or 4 bedroom dwellings – Must have at least 22 RECs 5 or more bedroom dwellings – Must have at least 28 RECs
d. Hot water system determined by the Minister	The Minister has discretion to allow additional units based on an assessment of their energy usage etc.

Exclusions to the above:

- Hot water unit consists of Solid Fuel Burning equipment
- Is being installed in a class 1 building located in a non-urban area
- Located in area without access to gas distribution network
- Electric Hot Water Unit no greater than 80 litre capacity
- Unit is insulated with material of an R value of R1.0 or greater
- Is the only Hot Water system for the building
- Where there is a technical difficulty which prevents the installation of a compliant unit.
- Replacing an existing electric hot water system under warranty in a class 1 building.

Hot Water System – Water Flow Performance Standard

In conjunction with the amended legislation there is also a requirement for the installer to ensure that any existing shower outlets in the dwelling must have a maximum flow capacity of not more than 9 litres per minute.

The detailed legislation can be found at http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_34725/default.asp

PAYING ACCOUNTS BY CREDIT CARD AND ON TIME:

A reminder to customers that if they are paying their accounts by credit card, a surcharge will be applied to cover the fees. In the case of Visa and Mastercard, it is 1% and for American Express and Diners it is 3%.

Customers are also reminded that accounts must be paid according to their trading terms. A 30-day account means that the account

Must be paid within 30 days of the month in which the goods were purchased.

Southern Plumbing applies strict credit controls. Therefore customers who are outside their trading terms can expect their account to be placed on hold until they pay their bill.

ANNUAL SALE SEASON AT REGIONAL STORES

The annual sale season is in full swing at Southern Innovations. Goulburn and Canberra stores had their sale at the end of January and now it's the turn of Wagga and Albury stores.

The Wagga sale will be on Friday and Saturday 26 and 27 February, and Albury's sale will be on Friday and Saturday 12 and 13 March.

If you have customers in the market for the very best bathroom and kitchen products, sale time is **THE TIME** to buy, with everything discounted, some items by 30% or more.

PE PIPE DISPENSER

At last! Someone has come up with a way to avoid those annoying tangles when installing plastic coiled pipe. This great gadget is adjustable so it can be used for a variety of materials such as pex pipe, dripperline, smaller diameter poly pipes and even cable.

Simply adjust the arms to suit the inside diameter of your coil, adjust the braking mechanism in the centre and away you go. At only \$265 they will pay for themselves in no time.

Stock is gradually becoming available but they are in high demand so speak to the guys at your nearest Southern branch and get them to chase one down for you.

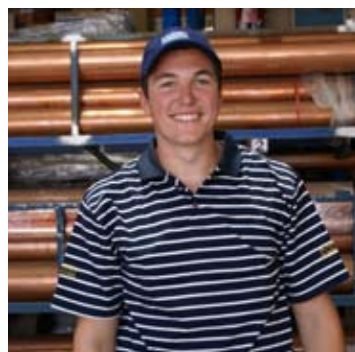


HELP HAITI'S EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

You can help ease the pain of the people of Haiti by purchasing clothing from Southern Plumbing's new range, which has just arrived in our stores. All the money raised from the sale of the clothing will be donated to the Red Cross appeal for Haiti's victims.

There are new T-shirts, polo shirts and hats at very modest prices. The striped polo shirt is \$12, the blue polos are \$10, T-shirts are \$8 and the hats and caps are \$5.

They're available at trade counters in all our stores, so buy up and help!



Fyshwick staff members,
Tim Dutton, Daniel Beales & Jack Mason, model the new attire being sold to raise funds for the Red Cross appeal for Haiti.