St. Petersburg Clothes Washer Rebate Pilot Program
Program Guidelines

Six Steps to Your Rebate

PLEASE NOTE: Pre-qualification requirements MUST be met. To receive a rebate, all participants are required to replace a qualified high volume clothes washer with an EPA Energy Star-certified model. These high efficiency washers meet stringent performance standards and use 13 gallons of water or less per load. Older, high volume washers use from 29 to 45 gallons per load.

Call 727-892-5611 or Email WasherRebate@stpete.org for help

New clothes washers purchased and/or installed prior to August 13, 2018 are ineligible for a Rebate.

Step 1: Check your Eligibility
a. You must be a St. Petersburg single family residential water customer replacing a washer in the home you own and live in. A copy of your current water bill is required with your application.
b. This Program is for the replacement of a high volume clothes washer. A qualified “old” clothes washer does NOT have an HE (high efficiency) or Energy Star label.
c. The capacity (tub volume) of the new Energy Star clothes washer shall be 4 cubic feet or greater.
d. New construction is NOT eligible for a rebate.

Step 2: Receive, Complete, Sign and Send Us your Program Application
a. Call or email to request an Application: 727-892-5611 or WasherRebate@stpete.org. You will be asked questions to help assess your eligibility.
b. Original Applications must be fully completed and signed by the property owner living at the residence. You are required to provide the old washer’s Model Number on your completed application as well as a signature verifying that the old washer is not an HE or Energy Star model. Return the application and a copy of your water bill to the Rebate Office:

Water Resources Department
Water Conservation Office
1650 Third Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713

Step 3: Schedule and Participate in a Pre-Inspection
a. After the Rebate Office receives your application, you will be contacted to schedule a pre-inspection.
b. During the pre-inspection, the Program representative will help:
   1) ensure that your old washer meets qualifications for replacement;
   2) take a photo of the product label, and
   3) discuss details regarding the next steps and proper disposal of the old washer.
c. Homeowners must keep the original high volume washer on the premises until the Installation Verification Inspection visit (Step 6).

PLEASE NOTE: After a successful FINAL INSPECTION, the City will pick up your washer for disposal – giving away, recycling, or selling your original washer is NOT PERMITTED. However, a licensed plumber may purchase or otherwise obtain your original washer for the purpose of obtaining repair parts, but not for resale as a functioning stand-alone appliance; this needs to be noted by the plumber on the plumber’s receipt.
Step 4: Receive a Rebate Reservation Form to purchase and install your new washer
a. After the Rebate Office receives and re-verifies your eligibility, you will receive a Reservation Confirmation with an expiration date (the reservation is valid for 30 days). You must mail in your original receipts before the reservation expires.
b. Purchase and install the new Energy Star-certified washer. The capacity (tub volume) of the new Energy Star clothes washer shall be 4 cubic feet or greater.
c. For assistance with selecting your new water-saving Energy Star clothes washer, visit the Energy Star website [www.energystar.gov/products/appliances/clothes_washers](http://www.energystar.gov/products/appliances/clothes_washers) for a current list of certified models.
d. The City does not provide assistance with the selection and installation of the new washer.

Step 5: Submit the original, itemized purchase receipt to the Water Conservation Office before the Reservation’s expiration date.

Your original receipt must include:
- Name and address of the store where you purchased the new clothes washer
- Plumber’s license number (if a plumber is used)
- Manufacturer name & model number for the new EPA Energy Star-certified clothes washer
- Purchase date
- Itemized costs of Clothes Washer purchase

Step 6: Schedule and Participate in an Installation Verification Inspection
a. After the Rebate Office receives your original, itemized purchase receipt, you will be contacted to schedule an Installation Verification Inspection. Your new washer installation must be approved before a rebate will be issued.
b. During the inspection, the Program representative will:
   1) check your new washer to ensure that it is in operating order;
   2) re-check eligibility of the old washer;
   3) take a photo of the new washer’s label;
   4) mark it with an identification number;
   5) distribute educational materials, and
   6) discuss details regarding proper disposal of the original washer. After the INSTALLATION VERIFICATION INSPECTION, the City will pick up your original washer from the curb or street side in front of your home for proper (required) disposal. As noted above, giving away, recycling, or selling it is NOT PERMITTED.

LAST STEP! Receive your Rebate Check! When the Installation Inspection is successfully completed, the Rebate Check will be processed, printed and mailed. This process takes approximately four weeks.
Frequently Asked Questions

How much is the Rebate? For all potable water account types, the Rebate will cover up to $125 of the amount paid for a new Energy Star-certified clothes washer. Pre-inspection is required – speak with a program representative for details. Call 727-892-5611 or email WasherRebate@stpete.org

What is the maximum number of Rebates available? Funding is limited for this new grant-funded initiative. Only one rebate per location is permitted. Limited to the owner/occupant of a single family home who is a St. Petersburg potable water customer.

What items are eligible for Rebate reimbursement? Only the new EPA Energy Star-certified clothes washer. Delivery, Loading, Unloading, Installation and Supply costs are not eligible costs.

Are top-loading Energy Star-certified washers available? Yes, both top-loading and front-loading models are on the Energy Star-certified list.

Aren’t Energy Star washers more expensive than regular washers? Due to new efficiency standards, the increasing number of available models and an increase in consumer purchasing, the price of HE washers has dropped – by up to $400 in the last 5 years! On average, the starting price for a 4 to 5 cubic feet capacity Energy Star model (the most-commonly purchased sizes) is only about $100 to $150 more than non-certified HE models. A Washer Rebate of up to $125 makes up for some of the difference in price.

You can also combine a manufacturer and/or store rebate or sale with your St. Petersburg Washer Rebate for bigger savings!

How can I find an Energy Star-certified clothes washer? It’s not as hard as you may think! Because of the nationwide popularity of high efficiency (HE) clothes washers, Energy Star models are found in all local home improvement stores and online. As with any appliance, it is important to take measurements of the space where the new model will be installed for use when selecting a model.

Look for the Energy Star Label. Currently, about 300 residential clothes washer models found in local stores carry the Energy Star label, including top-loading models. These include models from popular manufacturers like Kenmore, Whirlpool, Maytag, Samsung and LG.

It is highly recommended to double-check model eligibility by confirming that the specific model you are interested in is on the EPA’s Energy Star Certified Products list. Use the easy search method here: www.energystar.gov/productfinder/product/certified-clothes-washers/results
May I install the new clothes washer myself? You may install the new washer yourself in the home you own and live in. The use of a licensed plumbing contractor is not usually necessary for appliance replacement. If a plumber is used, the plumber must be licensed in the State of Florida and/or Pinellas County. To confirm a plumber’s license and registration, call the City of St. Petersburg at 727-536-4720. *New home construction does NOT qualify for a rebate.*

Will the City of St. Petersburg aid in the removal of my original washer and the installation of my new washer? No. The City representative will inspect the washers to verify their status but will perform no installation or removal work on your property. You must make independent arrangements to place your original washer at the curb or street side for City pick up, and you are independently responsible for the purchase, delivery and installation of your new washer.

This will be my first HE washer. What else do I need to know about HE clothes washers?

- It pays to be an educated consumer. Take measurements of the space where it will be installed to use while selecting a model. Find and read various shopping guides so you understand the terminology and can determine which features will work best for you and your family. Ask the appliance specialist questions at the store or in the chatroom.
- Most Energy Star-certified clothes washers do not have a central agitator. Attention is necessary when loading clothes to avoid overfilling.
- Due to a different washing/rinsing process than traditional washers, it takes a little longer to clean and rinse clothes.
- A special suds-free liquid laundry detergent may be necessary. Look for the “he” symbol and/or HE-compatible statement on the detergent label.
- Less of the “he” laundry detergent will be needed, compared to your older model. Read and follow label instructions.
- Leave the door open for an hour or so after use to allow drying of the door seal. Keep children and pets from getting into the machine.
- Many new features are available (some may raise the price). Options include steam and sanitize cycles, sensors to measure and set load size, electronic displays, and even Smart Phone connectivity.
- Always read and follow the product’s owner manual before use. Some recommend a monthly “maintenance cycle” and other machine care practices.

For further information, or if you have any questions, please call the Rebate Office at 727-892-5611 or email WasherRebate@stpete.org

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