

Save money with solar water heaters

Because we spend so much time and money cooling our homes, we often take hot water for granted — and miss the chance to save money by embracing eco-friendly ways to ensure hot showers and comfy pools. Roof-mounted solar systems can supply most of a household's hot water.

WHY IS SOLAR THERMAL A GOOD IDEA? Orlando has a lot of sunshine — which offers a sustainable and cost-effective way to generate hot water. Once installed, there is little maintenance.

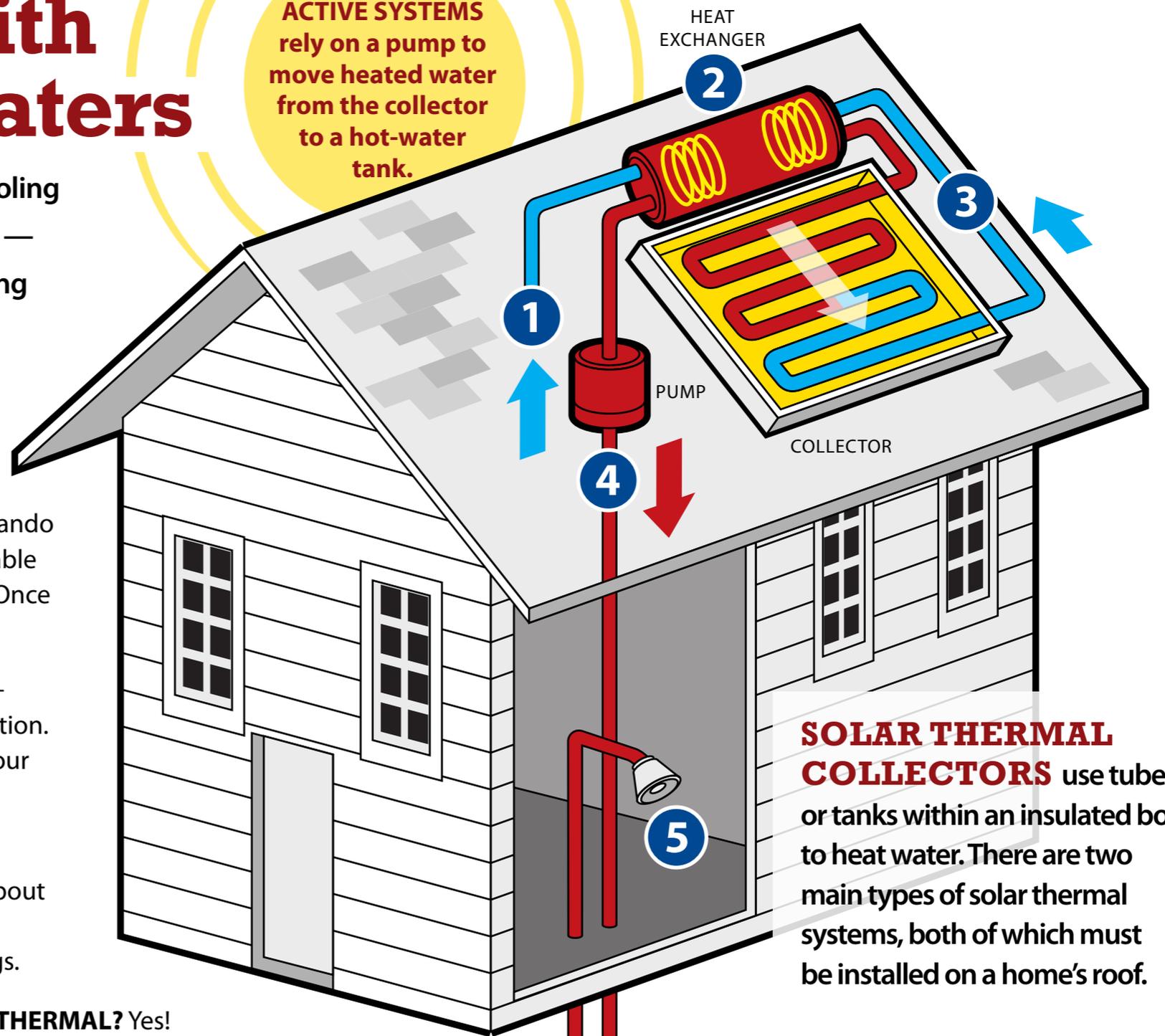
HOW MUCH DO THESE SYSTEMS COST? Anywhere from \$3,500 to \$7,000 including installation. This works out to about 8 cents per kilowatt hour over the life of the system.

WHAT KIND OF ENERGY SAVINGS CAN I EXPECT? An average family of four can save about 15-20 percent on their monthly utility bill. The more hot water you use, the greater the savings.

ARE THERE INCENTIVES TO INSTALL SOLAR THERMAL? Yes! OUC offers up to \$1,000 for residential solar hot water systems. Customers who take advantage of OUC's solar loan buy-down program receive \$550 plus a low- to no-interest loan.

CAN ONE SYSTEM PROVIDE HOT WATER FOR HOME AND POOL? No. Two separate systems would be required, since the technologies are slightly different. Thousands of gallons of water must be circulated and heated 10-20 degrees in pools, while water for the home typically reaches 150 degrees F and is stored in 40- to 80-gallon tanks.

ACTIVE SYSTEMS rely on a pump to move heated water from the collector to a hot-water tank.



SOLAR THERMAL COLLECTORS use tubes or tanks within an insulated box to heat water. There are two main types of solar thermal systems, both of which must be installed on a home's roof.

PASSIVE SYSTEMS use gravity and pressure to move heated water from the collector to a hot-water tank.

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 The water is delivered by an external source.
- 2 The heat exchanger heats the water.
- 3 At the same time, the heat exchanger is heating the water that cycles through the collector
- 4 Heated water is pumped to a hot-water tank.
- 5 The water is then used.