

Program Pre-Requisites Photo Guide

Updated August 13, 2025



California Energy-Smart Homes Incentive Program

PHOTO GUIDE FOR REQUIRED PRE-REQUISITES

- Each of items shown in this guide is a mandatory requirement for participation in the Energy-Smart Homes incentive program and must be installed as specified.
 No exceptions.
- Omission or improper installation of any of the required items will result in the project being disqualified from the Energy-Smart Homes incentive program.
- · Disqualified projects will forfeit all program incentives. No exceptions.



Water Heating Requirements for Plumbing Installers

Heat Pump Water Heating

- All water heating systems must utilize heat pump technology as the primary method of heating water.
- Electric resistance water heaters are not eligible for program participation, regardless of size or configuration.
- Projects that do not meet the heat pump water heating requirement will be removed from the program and will forfeit all incentives. No exceptions.



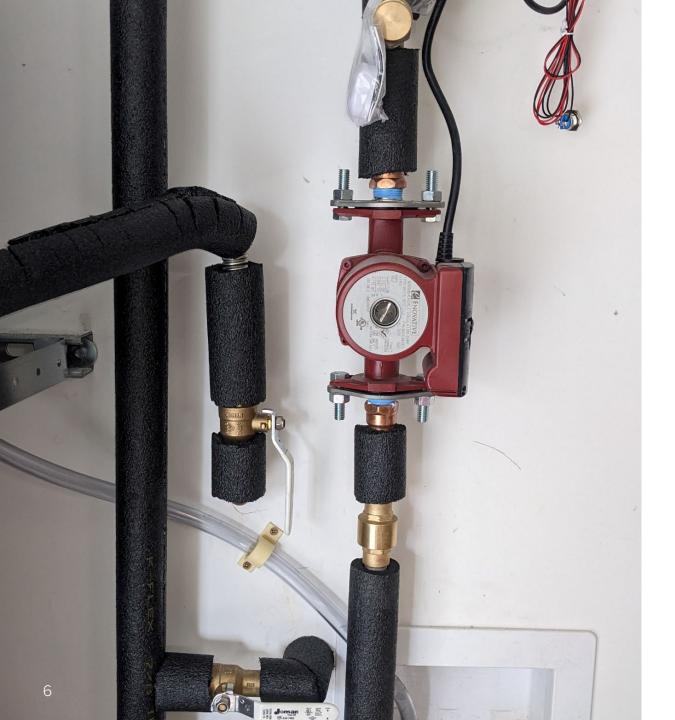




Thermostatic Mixing Valves

- The Thermostatic Mixing Valve (TMV) is required to mix hot and cold water to deliver safe water temperatures and prevent scalding at point of use.
- The TMV must be installed at each unitary water heater, not at individual faucets or shower heads. Do not confuse TMVs with point-of-use tempering valves.
- Installation must occur outside the water heater tank, where the hot water outlet and cold-water inlet lines merge.
- All TMVs must be ASSE 1017 certified.





Thermostatic Mixing Valve Exceptions

The program does not require a Thermostatic Mixing Valve (TMV) for the following project types:

- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
- Projects that include a recirculation loop as part of their water heating system design

