

Residential Gas Installation Rebate Scheme - Guidelines for Applicants

About the Residential Gas Installation Rebate Scheme

The Residential Gas Installation Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) is a \$4 million initiative from the Queensland Government to assist householders to replace key electrical appliances with gas. The Scheme supports gas as an efficient and reliable energy option for Queensland homes. It aims to increase the uptake of gas in existing housing and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Changing from electricity to gas for heating water and cooking will reduce a household's greenhouse gas emissions by approximately two tonnes a year.

The Scheme provides rebates of up to \$500 to householders installing eligible gas appliances to replace electric, and some non-electric appliances, in **existing** homes.

The Department of Mines and Energy is implementing the Scheme via arrangements with participating gas retailers, who act as agents for the Government to deliver the rebate as a credit on the homeowner's gas bill.

How to access the rebate

1. **Assess your eligibility** for the rebate by completing the *Applicant Checklist*. Also refer to the Eligibility Criteria contained in this document and the *Scheme Terms and Conditions* (see reverse side of *Application Form*).
2. **Arrange your gas supply** through a participating gas retailer. The rebate will be issued as a credit on your gas account.
3. **Apply for the rebate** by completing a *Residential Gas Installation Rebate Application Form* and lodging it with the gas retailer supplying your gas.

1. Eligibility Criteria

Note: To be eligible for a rebate, you (the applicant) must meet all the criteria for applicants, appliances, dwellings and fuel types outlined in this section.

Applicant

To be eligible for the rebate you must:

- Be a private or corporate owner of the residential dwelling where the appliance(s) have been installed. This includes being a landlord of a rental property.
- Be replacing existing electric, and some non-electric, appliance(s) with new eligible gas appliance(s) - *refer to eligible appliances below*.
- Install eligible gas appliance(s) in an **existing** single residential dwelling situated in Queensland - *refer to eligible dwellings below*.
- Have all associated gasfitting work completed by a licensed gasfitter.
- Obtain your gas supply from a participating gas retailer - *refer to section 2 of this document*.
- Complete a Residential Gas Installation Rebate Application Form - *refer to section 3 of this document*.

Eligible Appliances and Rebate Amounts

To be eligible for the rebate you must have installed eligible gas appliance(s) that are:

- new;
- purchased on or after 7 September 2006;
- replacing existing electric, and some non-electric, appliance(s) – *refer to replacing non-electric appliances below*.
- installed before midnight on the Scheme termination date (see below).

There are two categories of eligible gas appliances:

Category 1

- A \$300 rebate for a **Gas Hot Water System**, with a minimum 5 Star energy efficiency rating. *Refer to the list of eligible gas hot water systems.*

Category 2

Note: A rebate for a Category 2 appliance is only available when either:

- the rebate application also relates to installing an eligible gas hot water system; or
 - there is already an existing gas hot water system at the installation address. There is no energy efficiency requirement for an existing gas hot water system.
- A \$200 rebate for one or more of the following **Cooking Appliances** - a minimum 4 burner gas cooktop, gas oven or gas stove.
 - A \$200 rebate for a minimum 4 Star energy efficient **Internal Gas Space Heater** with an external flue, which complies with Australian Standard 4553.
 - A \$200 rebate for a **Gas Clothes Dryer** with an external flue.
 - A \$400 rebate for two Category 2 appliances (cooking appliances are a single category item).

The **maximum rebate** per installation address is **\$500**.

To be eligible for the maximum \$500 rebate you will need to have installed, either:

- More than one eligible gas appliance, one of which is an eligible gas hot water system; or
- Two eligible gas hot water systems which replace two electric (or some non-electric) hot water systems: or
- Three appliances in Category 2 (subject to the requirement for existing gas hot water).

Eligible Dwellings

The rebate applies to **existing** residential premises situated in Queensland, being:

- a detached house; or
- one of a group of two or more attached dwellings, including a row house, terrace house, townhouse or villa unit; which is not located above or below another dwelling other than a private garage; or
- a relocatable home that is a fixed structure (i.e. not readily transportable).

The rebate is not available for installations in:

- flats or units in multi-storey buildings; or
- new homes.

Eligible Fuel Types

To be eligible for the rebate, the installed appliance(s) must use an eligible fuel which is supplied by a participating gas retailer.

Eligible fuels are:

- reticulated (piped) natural gas
- reticulated (piped) liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); and
- LPG cylinders.

Small LPG cylinders obtained from outlets that fill or swap cylinders are not eligible for the rebate. As gas supply is often not the core business of these outlets, they are generally not participants in the rebate scheme.

Replacing Non-Electric Appliances

Consideration may be given to applications for the replacement of non-electric appliances, such as appliances fuelled by wood. However, this does not include replacing a gas appliance with another gas appliance, or replacing a solar hot water system, or a heat pump system, with gas.

Enquiries regarding replacing non-electric appliances should be made to the Department of Mines and Energy by email to gasrebate@dme.qld.gov.au or on (07) 3247 3254.

2. Condition for Retailer Participation

The Queensland Government has agreements with participating gas retailers, who act as agents for the government to deliver the rebate to homeowners. Therefore, availability of a rebate is subject to the gas retailer supplying gas to the premises being a registered participant in the scheme.

Refer to the list of participating gas retailers.

LPG Cylinder retailers have a network of dealers throughout Queensland. Arrangements are in place between LPG retailers and their dealers to deliver the rebate to householders. Contact your LPG dealer for more information.

3. Applying for the Rebate

You can apply for the rebate once the eligible gas appliance(s) have been installed.

Application Form

An application for the rebate must be submitted on a *Residential Gas Installation Rebate Application Form*. Application forms are available:

- for download from the Department of Mines and Energy website (www.dme.qld.gov.au/gasrebate);
- by contacting the department on (07) 3247 3254 to arrange for a form to be posted; or
- from gasfitters, participating gas retailers and some gas appliance stores.

Completing the Application Form

- Ensure you have read the *Scheme Terms and Conditions* (see reverse of *application form*).
- Complete the application in full, sign and attach **copies only** of:
 - proof of purchase documentation showing the type of appliance purchased and the date purchased; and
 - current Gas System Compliance Certificate – Form No. PGA734 issued by your gasfitter.

Note: It is important to ensure you have a current Gas System Compliance Certificate – *refer to the sample copy of the gas system compliance certificate*. Superseded versions of this certificate cannot be accepted.

Lodging your Application Form

The completed application form together with the supporting documentation must be lodged with the participating gas retailer supplying or proposed to supply gas to the installation address.

Applications must be received by the participating gas retailer no later than 10 business days after the Scheme termination date.

Refer to the list of participating gas retailers for application lodgement details.

An application would only be lodged directly with the Department of Mines and Energy if the application relates to a rental property and the owner/applicant does not hold any accounts with the gas retailer supplying the installation address.

Applicant Notification

Advice of your successful application will generally be by inclusion of relevant credit entries on your next or subsequent gas bill or account. A gas retailer is not obliged to send you a separate notice unless their billing system does not show credit entries or balances.

You will be advised if your application is unsuccessful as soon as possible following receipt and assessment.

Payment of Rebates

Payment of approved rebates will generally be by credit to your gas bill or account. Rebates will only be paid by cheque by the Department of Mines and Energy if your application relates to a rental property and you do not hold any accounts with the gas retailer supplying the installation address.

If you give notice to terminate your retail contract, or your retail contract otherwise terminates or expires, your gas retailer is obliged to issue payment of any remaining rebate credit balance following the issue of your final account.

Scheme Termination

The Scheme shall terminate when it is fully subscribed, or at midnight on 31 August 2009, whichever is the earliest date. If the Scheme terminates on 31 August 2009, any eligible applications received within 10 business days of that date will be processed up to the subscribed number of available rebates.

Additional Information

Visit the Department of Mines and Energy website at www.dme.qld.gov.au/gasrebate to access the following information:

- Eligible Gas Hot Water Systems
- Participating Gas Retailers
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Rebate Application Form and Scheme Terms and Conditions
- Sample Copy of the Gas System Compliance Certificate

You can also email the Department of Mines and Energy at gasrebate@dme.qld.gov.au or call the Department's Residential Gas Installation Rebate Enquiries line on (07) 3247 3254.

Disclaimer: The issue of this Applicant Guideline does not relieve the applicant of their obligation to ensure they are fully aware of the Scheme Terms and Conditions found on the reverse of the Rebate Application Form. In the event of any inconsistency between this Applicant Guideline and the Scheme Terms and Conditions, the Scheme Terms and Conditions shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.