

2022 Denver Energy Code - Training Q&A

Residential Contractor Training

Part Two 6/29/2023



Question	Answer
<p>Would a solar hot water heater meet the requirements for the additional energy efficiency credits required for Prescriptive Path compliance in an all-electric house? Particularly in small units or homes that do not have the 760 cu ft available for a heat pump hot water heater?</p>	<p>A solar water heater with an electric backup would certainly meet the requirements for an all-electric property. Solar water heater efficiency is measured in SUEF, and while that metric was developed to compare directly to the UEF of non-solar water heaters, it is not specifically included in the Denver Energy Code and the requirements of DEC R408.10.2/3. An administrative modification would therefore be required for CPD to approve this approach. You can find the Administrative Modification Request form under Building Guides on our website, Denvergov.org/BuildingCode.</p> <p>DEC R403.5.4 is an electric-ready measure intended to make upgrading to electric heat pumps easier in the future. The dimensions requirements are that the space must be 3 ft x 3 ft x 7 ft, and have a minimum volume of 760 cf OR the equivalent of one 16"x24" grill to a heated space and one 8" ducts of not more than 10 feet in length for cool exhaust air. For homes that cannot accommodate the 760 cf, the grill and duct may be a good alternative. Also, if you are installing a heat pump water heater, the requirements of DEC R403.5.4 do not apply – in that case the space and ventilation requirements will be per the manufacturer.</p>
<p>What are the requirements in the code for hot water circulation and pipe insulation? They were not covered in these trainings.</p>	<p>DEC Section R403.5.1 covers the requirements for heated water circulation and temperature maintenance systems, while DEC Section R403.5.2 covers the requirements for hot water pipe insulation. These trainings are not comprehensive of all requirements in the code and were developed to focus on the provisions that are amended from the base code or unique to the Denver Energy Code. Reference the full code for all requirements.</p> <p>A reminder on the Denver Energy Code: the DEC adopts the 2021 IECC as base code. The PDF version of the code that can be downloaded at Denvergov.org/BuildingCode only includes sections that have been amended, deleted, or added to the base code. It is helpful to reference that document first, then look to the base code to get a full picture of the requirements.</p>
<p>If the home is using gas, do you would need an additional 13 credits on top of the 18 credits already required to meet the exception to not need solar?</p>	<p><i>Answered Live</i></p>