

If space is limited, consider an outdoor closet

If your home cannot accommodate a heat pump water heater inside, or if your existing water heater is in an outdoor closet, consider placing the heat pump system outdoors. If the outdoor closet does not meet the minimum space requirements, you can ventilate with louvered doors. Also, plan to protect the system from rain.

› Just enough space for the heater

An outdoor enclosure must have enough space for the water heater, plus pipes and accessories. Extra height, width and depth makes it easier to maintain, service, and replace when needed. Set the enclosure on a concrete slab - full water tanks are heavy.

› Remember, the heater needs air

In climate zones with mild summers and winters, an outdoor water heater has access to a limitless supply of air unless the enclosure restricts air flow. If the outdoor closet does not meet minimum space requirements, louvered doors can satisfy air flow needs, but also allow sound transmission. Choose a location for the outdoor closet and position of the louvered door to minimize any concern for sound.

› Electrical

Note: 120-volt units are not recommended for outdoor closets. Use 240-volt units.

› Protect your heater from rain

Some sheds and outdoor enclosures offer full protection from the elements. Others function mainly for aesthetic reasons. If your outdoor closet has a slat roof, a lattice roof, or no roof at all, add a rain-protective cover to keep your water heater in good condition.

› Pro tip

Building a shed for a water heater could be a chance to increase outdoor storage at your home. Consider making it bigger for a place to store yard equipment, tools, or an e-bike.

