Insulating your hot water pipes reduces heat loss and can raise the temperature of hot water delivered at faucets by 2–4°F. This means you can lower your hot water setting by 2–4°F, saving you energy. Hot water will also arrive at faucets more quickly, reducing wait times and conserving water.

**To insulate your hot water pipes, complete the following steps:**

**Caution:** It is important not to obstruct any pressure relief valves. For gas water heaters, insulation should be kept at least 6 inches from the flue.

1. Determine the type of insulation material to use:
   - For electric water heaters, pipe sleeves made with polyethylene or neoprene foam are the most common. You can use acrylic tape, duct tape, or cable ties to secure the sleeves.
   - On gas water heaters, your safest choice is to use fiberglass pipe-wrap (at least 1-inch thick) without a facing. You can use aluminum foil tape or wire to secure the fiberglass pipe-wrap.

2. Measure the length of the pipes to determine how much insulation you will need. Start at the water heater and measure the length of all accessible hot water pipes, especially the first 3 feet of pipe from the water heater. It’s also a good idea to insulate the cold-water inlet pipes for the first 3 feet.

3. Determine the size of the pipe by matching the pipe sleeve’s inside diameter to the pipe’s outside diameter for a snug fit.

4. Purchase the size, type, and amount of pipe sleeves determined by the previous steps. Choose the one with the highest R-value (insulation value) that meets your criteria.

5. Cut the pipe sleeves into the lengths needed. You can use scissors, a box cutter, or a utility knife.

6. Install the pipe sleeves. Position them so the seam faces downward. If more than one sleeve is needed to cover a longer pipe, tape the seam where the pipes meet. Cut slits or make miter angles to install around corners and then secure with the appropriate tape.

7. Secure the pipe sleeves to the pipes every 1 to 2 feet, using the appropriate method (see Step 1).

8. Once completed, apply for any available rebates.