

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## Dispensers save energy, heat water

By James Dulley

STARCOTT MEDIA SERVICES

**Question:** We drink quite a bit of hot tea year-round. I keep an electric pot of water hot all day. Would it be more energy efficient to install a sink-type hot-water dispenser?

**Answer:** Keeping a small electric pot of water hot all day is not the most energy-efficient method for making tea. During the winter, the heat lost from the pot helps to heat the house, but the electric resistance element is expensive to operate.

A sink-mounted hot-water dispenser is a much more efficient method to get hot water instantly for tea or coffee. There also are many other uses for instant hot water, including warming baby food, cleaning cheese or butter off a knife, etc.

A hot-water dispenser is different from an instant water heater, which heats the cold water as it is used. Instead, a hot-water dispenser has a small, highly insulated hot-water tank under the counter. In effect, it is an efficient mini water heater in the kitchen. With its insulated tank, very little heat is lost to the kitchen, so less electricity is consumed.

A typical hot-water dispenser can heat enough water for about 50 cups each hour. This is more than most families will ever use. For better-tasting water, some models include optional water filters. Another option is a countertop model that uses bottled water and may include a chiller for cold water.

If you have children who can reach the hot-water-dispenser handle, select a model with a child-resistant push button. A typical design requires a 90-degree turn of the button to switch it from the locked-off position. Even 140-degree water can scald skin in seconds, so always lock the dispenser handle.

Hot water can leach lead from pipe solder joints, so all the water paths in hot-water dis-



IN-SINK-ERATOR

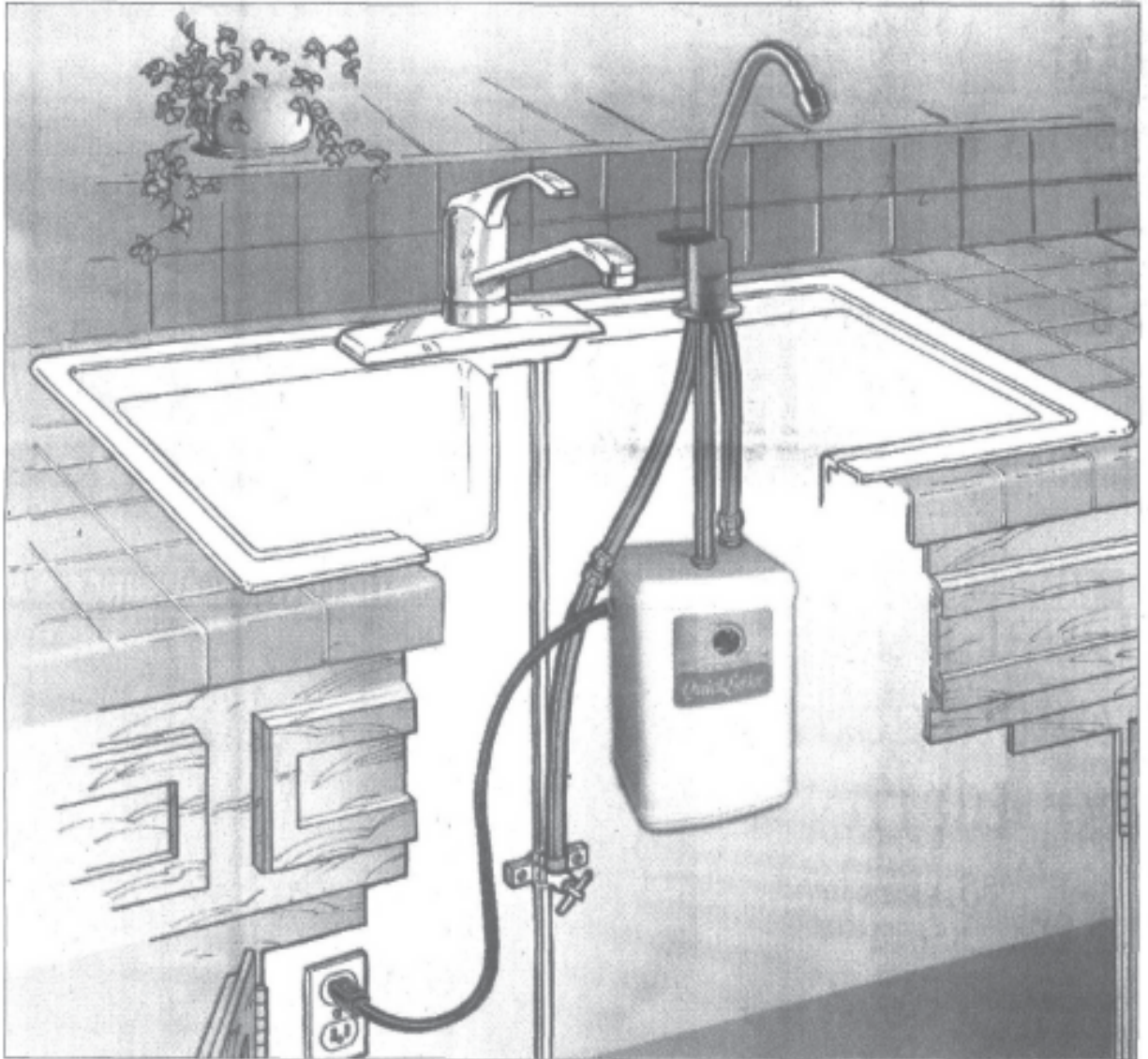
The average hot-water dispenser can produce about 50 cups of steaming water every hour.

pensers are lead-free. When steaming rice or boiling vegetables on the stove, it's safe to start with heated water from the dispenser. This will save energy overall.

The following companies offer hot-water dispensers: Anaheim Manufacturing, 800-854-3229, [www.anaheimmfg.com](http://www.anaheimmfg.com); Elkay, 603-574-8484, [www.elkay.com](http://www.elkay.com); Franke, 800-626-5771, [www.frankeksd.com](http://www.frankeksd.com); In-Sink-Erator, 800-558-5700, [www.insinkerator.com](http://www.insinkerator.com); and Tri Palm International, 800-646-2747, [www.oasiswatercoolers.com](http://www.oasiswatercoolers.com).

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## SAVING ENERGY



ANAHEIM MANUFACTURING

A small, insulated hot-water tank under the counter heats the water that comes out of the dispenser.