



## **Rinnai America and Partners Hit Major Milestone In Saving Florida Energy**

### ***Newly Approved Declaratory Statement to Florida Energy Code To Save Florida Residents Energy and Money***

**Tallahassee, FL** – Rinnai Corporation, the world's largest gas appliance manufacturer and leading tankless water heater manufacturer, announced today the approval of a Declaratory Statement by the Florida Building Commission (FBC) that will allow builders to more easily meet energy compliance standards and simultaneously save Florida residents energy and money by installing a tankless water heater. Thanks to a joint effort between Florida gas organizations and Rinnai America, this Declaratory Statement was approved on May 10, 2005.

The FBC, established by the Florida Legislature and appointed by the Governor, is responsible for implementing a uniform building code for the state of Florida. The FBC has rule-making authority to adopt and revise the Code as necessary. Chapter 13, entitled the Florida Energy Efficiency Code for Building Construction (typically referred to as the Florida Energy Code), establishes statewide thermal performance standards and appliance efficiency minimum requirements for residential and commercial buildings. Essentially, the Florida Energy Code regulates and guides building practices, procedures and products to ensure the most energy efficient techniques are applied. Energy use for water heating in residential buildings is a significant factor in achieving code compliance. Official interpretations of the Code are communicated by the FBC in the form of Declaratory Statements.

There are two ways a residential builder can comply with the Florida Energy Code: Compliance Method A requires an energy performance calculation to determine an overall efficiency rating for a new home. The rating is based on the energy efficiency of the various equipment and construction techniques incorporated into the home and must meet or exceed energy efficiency minimum standards established by the Code. The Code calculations provide "credits" for installing products or using techniques that achieve increased energy efficiency, making higher-credit components of great value to builders.

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Compliance Method B provides specific minimum prescriptive requirements for building techniques and products. Method B does not require any calculations but it also does not provide the flexibility to trade the efficiency of one building component for another as is allowed in Method A.

Prior to the FBC issuance of the tankless water heater Declaratory Statement, neither of the compliance methods appropriately accounted for the elevated energy efficiency of tankless water heaters. Rinnai's gas-fueled tankless water heaters have Energy Factor (EF) ratings (determined in accordance with Federal Department of Energy calculation methods) that are substantially higher than storage tank water heaters. Rinnai and its gas industry trade association partners pursued the Declaratory Statement in order to gain official recognition of tankless water heater technology by the FBC and give builders appropriate credit in either compliance method. This means benefits for builders, residents and the State of Florida:

For Builders this Statement means that by installing a Rinnai tankless water heater and receiving full Code credit for the higher tankless EF ratings, complying their homes becomes much easier. Additionally, they will be able to provide their customers with endless hot water while saving them money on their monthly energy bills.

For Residents this Statement means that while they enjoy never-ending hot water in their homes, they will also be saving up to 70% a month on their energy bills and be doing their part to help conserve the nation's natural resources.

For the State of Florida this Statement means that as a whole, the state will be saving much-needed energy by incentivizing the use of energy efficient tankless water heaters in residential construction. Also, the state will be a leading contributor in the U.S.'s overall efforts to wean off foreign sources of energy and become more energy dependent.

Moving forward, the FBC has indicated it will formally incorporate the provisions of the tankless water heater Declaratory Statement into the Florida Energy Code during the 2006 code revision cycle. Additionally, FBC staff has expressed a willingness to work with Rinnai and its industry partners to address the use of gas-fueled tankless water heaters to provide space heating for Florida homes. Rinnai tankless water heaters offer a highly efficient and reliable alternative to standard heating technologies.

Rinnai has been working with the Florida Propane Gas Association, Florida

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Natural Gas Association and the Florida Propane Gas Safety Education and Research Council in order to draft, file and gain approval of the Declaratory Statement provisions and move into the next stages of codifying the energy efficient guidelines.

### **About The Declaratory Statement**

The Declaratory Statement is an official interpretation of the code and signals the Florida Building Commission's intent to local Building Officials that tankless water heaters are appropriately included in Florida energy calculations as well as their intent to eventually incorporate this technology into Code during the 2006 revision cycle.

### **About Rinnai**

Rinnai America Corporation, a subsidiary of Rinnai Corporation in Nagoya, Japan, was established in 1974 and is headquartered in Peachtree City, GA. Rinnai Corporation manufactures gas and oil appliances, including tankless hot water heaters, a wide range of kitchen appliances and heating and air conditioning units. Today, Rinnai is the single largest gas appliance manufacturer in the world and is the technology leader in its industry. Annual corporate revenues including those of its subsidiaries are in excess of \$3 billion. With a global perspective to create 21<sup>st</sup> century products for the home and office, Rinnai Corporation commits itself to the safety and pursuit of comfortable lifestyles. For more information about the Rinnai Corporation and the Rinnai Continuum product, visit [www.foreverhotwater.com](http://www.foreverhotwater.com).

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