TABLE 8. SUGGESTED SOLAR-HEATER DESIGN DATA[a]

DESIGN ITEM	BASED ON RATE OF 30 GAL PER DAY PER PERSON								BASED ON RATE OF 40 GAL PER DAY PER PERSON							
No. of Occupants in Residence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hot Water Used at Night, gal per person	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Hot Water Used at Night, gal total	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160
Retained in Tank, 25 per cent, gal	4	8	11	15	19	23	27	30	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
Tank Capacity Required, gal	20	40	59	75	94	113	130	150	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200
Hot Water Used During Day, gal	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160
Total Water to be Heated:																
Gal per 8 hr period	35	70	104	135	169	203	235	270	45	90	135	180	225	270	315	360
Gal per hour	4.5	9	13	17	21	26	29	34	6	12	17	23	28	34	39	45
Copper Coil Required:																
Surface area, sq ft	25	50	75	100	121	145	168	192	32	64	96	128	160	192	224	256
Equivalent length 1 in. coil, ft	100	200	300	400	484	580	664	768	128	256	384	512	640	768	896	1024
Box Size:																
Area, sq ft	25	50	75	100	121	145	168	192	32	64	96	128	160	192	224	256
Width, ft	4	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	4	6	8	9	10	11	12	12
Length, ft	6	8	11	12.5	13.5	14.5	16.5	17.5	8	10	12	14	16	18	19	21

[a]Sun Effect and the Design of Solar Heaters, by H. L. Alt (A.S.H.V.E. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 41, 1935, p. 131).

circulation lines, and tank. A copper coil is more efficient in absorbing heat in the box but galvanized iron or steel may be substituted depending on the local water conditions, cost, and other considerations.

The storage tank must be able to store sufficient heated water for the night period of about 16 hours when the coil is not functioning or is operating under such poor sun conditions as to make its heating effect negligible. Due to the fact that the *no sun* period includes the night period when little or no hot water is used, an available storage of 50 per cent of the average daily usage is considered adequate. Since about 25 per cent of stored hot water cannot be drawn out of a storage tank before the incoming cold water reduces the temperature of all of the water in the tank to an unsatisfactory point for usage, the equation for calculating the storage capacity of the tank becomes:

$$S = \frac{Q \times 0.50}{0.75} = 0.666Q \qquad (4)$$

where

S = storage capacity of tank, gallons. Q = average daily usage, gallons.

Thus for a family of four persons using an average of 40 gal of hot water per person per day the size of the tank would be 4 persons x 40 gal x 0.666 or 106 gal, and the nearest standard size of tank to this theoretical capacity would be used. The tank should be well insulated to prevent undue loss of heat during the 16-hour period when the coil is inoperative, and it should be located as high as possible in the building (under the peak of the roof if such exists) so as to secure a maximum circulation head from the coil. The hot water supply to the house, as shown in Fig. 11, is located at the top of the tank, which serves to vent the air from the tank through the hot water faucets as fast as it accumulates.

The coil should be of the return-bend type, square or slightly rectangular in form, and should have the pipes running east and west, with the coil on the south side of the building where it can receive the full sun

effect all day long without shadows from the building itself or from adjacent obstructions such as trees or other structures. The coil should be placed as low as possible in relation to the storage tank level, such as on a porch roof, the roof of a one-story extension or, if necessary, even on the ground. Both the coil and the circulation lines should be designed to facilitate the circulation flow as much as possible, using long radius copper fittings or recessed galvanized iron fittings to match the materials of the coil, circulation lines, and tank. The coil should be inclined as shown in Fig. 12 so that the north end is raised above the south end to secure an angle with the horizontal of about 53 deg. This will result in the inlet end of the coil being on the south side (or bottom) and the outlet end being on the north side (or top). This will satisfy conditions along the 30 deg N latitude which includes the portions of Florida and Southern California where these heaters are most frequently used.

The hot box is usually constructed of wood on the four sides and bottom, and is insulated. Over the top of the box glass sash are placed and the box should be constructed as near air-tight as possible. The interior surfaces should be painted white to reflect the heat, while the coil should be painted black to absorb the heat. The box need not be deeper than necessary to house the coil and to protect it from the weather.

The addition of a light gage copper plate on the bottom of the box to which the pipe of the coil is soldered, for good metallic contact, will add to the amount of heat received by the coil due to the fact that this plate will receive all of the sun rays which fail to directly strike the coil. The heat from this source is transmitted to the coil through the plate instead of by heating the air surrounding the coil and from which only part of the heat enters the coil, the balance being transmitted through the glass sash.

Design data given in Table 8 may be used with some judgment in selecting the size of solar heater coil and box for a particular application. These data are based on consumptions of 30 and 40 gal of hot water per day per person.

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[2]—Water Distributing Systems for Buildings, by R. B. Hunter (*National Bureau of Standards*, Report BMS79, p. 6-9.) (Charts extended to flow of 0.39 gpm).

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