

Roof geyser rule may go

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TOWNHOUSE complexes will have to change their current policies of not allowing owners to install solar heating panels and geysers on their roofs.

With government pressure to save energy and the enforced installation of solar power systems in all new and existing homes worth over R750 000 by 2010, the "no geyser on the roof" policy will have to change.

There are two systems of solar water heating, one direct and the other indirect.

The indirect system where the geyser cylinder is installed above the solar panels, is used in 85% of South African homes, according to Solahart, which ran a pilot Central Energy Fund project last year.

The indirect system might not be aesthetically pleasing but it is the only suitable system for the Highveld, which freezes overnight in winter, according to Solahart's Jim Hickey.

The indirect system suits the high calcium content we have in our tap water, said Hickey.

