

**University of Maryland's Solar Water Heating System  
Ranks Number ONE  
At 2002 Solar Decathlon**



*The solar water heater contest demonstrates that a solar water heating system can provide all of the energy necessary to heat water for common uses such as bathing, laundry, and dishwashing.*

According to Alex Ysabek (the winning team leader), "The solar thermal system we're using has proven itself to be very reliable and capable. The system produces the equivalent of about 12 kWh per sunny day."

**Thermomax heat-pipe tubes** contain a sheet of copper that is painted blue to absorb the sun's heat energy. This energy is transferred into a thin tube behind the copper sheet that contains a small amount of water. The water boils and rises to the top of the tube and heats antifreeze that is pumped into our hot water heater to heat our water.

**Thermo Technologies** (<http://www.ThermoTechs.com>), a Maryland-based company, furnished Thermomax collectors.

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