



Water Heater Safety

Scalding

Water temperatures over 125 degrees Fahrenheit can cause severe burns instantly or death from scalds. Children, disabled and elderly are at the highest risk of being scalded and may require a thermostat setting of 120 degrees or lower to prevent contact with “HOT” water. Safety and energy conservation are factors to be considered when selecting the water temperature setting of a water heater’s thermostat. It will take less than five seconds to produce a serious burn if the water temperature is 140 degrees. Maximum water temperatures occur just after the water heater has recovered (heated all the water in the tank to the thermostat setting). To find the hot water temperature being delivered, turn on a hot water faucet, place a thermometer in the hot water stream and read the temperature on the thermometer.

Electrical Shock

Electric water heaters may pose a risk to electrical shock. When installed properly, all exposed wires to the thermostat and heating elements are protected and covered. The risk of shock exists when these service panels are removed to adjust the thermostat setting or to reset the energy cut off switch. Power supply must be shut off before removing access panels prior to adjusting thermostat(s) or resetting the temperature limiting control.

Flammable Vapors

Vapors from flammable liquids will explode and catch fire causing death or severe burns. Do not use or store flammable products such as gasoline, solvents or adhesives in the same room or area near the water heater. Flammable vapors cannot be seen, are heavier than air, travel a long way on the floor, and can be carried from other rooms to the pilot flame by air currents. Keep flammable products far away from the heater, in tightly closed and approved containers, and out of reach of children.

Do not install a gas water heater where flammable products will be stored or used unless the main burner and pilot flames are at least eighteen inches above the floor. This will reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of vapors being ignited by the main burner or pilot flame.

Gaseous Fuels

Both liquid petroleum and natural gas have an odorant added to help in their detection. Some people may not be physically able to smell or recognize this odorant. If you are unsure or unfamiliar about the smell associated with LP or natural gas, ask your local gas supplier. If you smell gas:

DO NOT USE YOUR OWN PHONE.

DO NOT attempt to find the cause yourself.

DO NOT try to light any appliance.

DO NOT touch or turn on any electrical switch.

DO NOT use the phone in your building.

Leave the house immediately and make sure your family and pets leave also.

Leave the doors open for ventilation.

Go to a neighbors house and call your gas supplier, a qualified service agency or the fire department.

Keep the area clear until the service call has been made, the leak corrected and a qualified agency has determined the areas to be safe.

See your Use and Care Manual for additional safety information.