

## Finding The Thermostats

Most full-sized electric water heaters have two thermostats. Each thermostat usually has its own access panel. Both thermostats should be set to the same temperature.

1. Turn off power to the water heater, at the electrical service panel, before adjusting your electric water heater thermostats.
2. Remove the access panel(s). If a protective plastic cover is in place on the thermostat, leave it there, as long as it doesn't prevent access to the thermostat adjustment screw.
3. Using a flat slotted screwdriver, turn the thermostat adjusting screw until the pointer is directed to the desired temperature.
4. Reduce the temperature (see previous section for instructions).
5. Replace access panels and turn power on to water heater.

**Notes:** If you begin to run out of hot water after lowering the temperature of your water heater, repeat the above steps, with the power off, raising the thermostat settings slightly, until you have enough hot water.

One or two days after setting your water heater temperature, you may want to re-measure your water temperature to see if you've achieved the reduction you wanted.



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## Adjust Your Electric Water Heater Temperature to Save Money & Energy

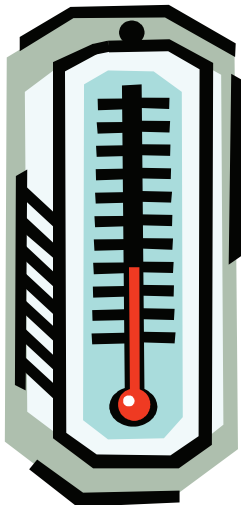


In many cases, water heater temperatures are set much higher than necessary, which leads to energy waste and increased risk of scalding.

Water at 140°F can cause serious burns in less than five seconds. 120°F water requires over five minutes to do the same. This is especially important for families with young children or others who may be at risk from unintentional exposure to hot water.

Salem Electric recommends setting your water heater thermostats so the hot water temperature is 120°F, measured at the faucet closest to the water heater. An average Salem Electric customer can expect to save approximately \$25 per year for a 20°F temperature reduction.

There are situations where it would not make sense to reduce your water temperature:



▶ You run out of hot water frequently.

▶ Your dishwasher does not have a water temperature booster.

## Taking Your Water Heater's Temperature

**Note:** The following instructions for adjusting water heater settings apply **ONLY** to electric water heaters. If your water heater is fueled by natural gas or other combustion fuels, adjustments are made differently.

1. Wait at least 2 hours after your most recent household hot water use before measuring the hot water temperature.
2. Find an accurate thermometer that reads temperatures in the range of at least 100°F to 160°F (such as a candy thermometer).
3. Run hot water from the faucet nearest the water heater into a container holding the thermometer.
4. Continue to run the water until the thermometer reading stops rising and read the resulting temperature.



### Safety Concerns

Third degree burns will occur in:

- ◆ 1 second at 160°F
- ◆ 30 seconds at 130°F
- ◆ 10 minutes at 120°F

## Determining The Amount of Temperature Reduction

Often times the thermostats on the water heater is inaccurate. Use the following method to determine the correct setting.

1. Subtract 120°F from the current hot water temperature. The result is the number of degrees you can reduce your water heater thermostat to provide 120°F water at the faucet.

For example:

Hot water temperature = 135°F  
135 - 120 = 15°F temperature reduction

**TURN OFF POWER TO THE WATER HEATER AT THE ELECTRICAL SERVICE PANEL - Before adjusting your electric water heater thermostats.**

2. Reduce temperature setting on water heater thermostats.

