

# Hot Savings

## Electric Water Heater Efficiency

### Why Should I Do This?

Another easy way to save money and energy is by adjusting the temperature of your electric water heater. Some manufacturers pre-set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, however, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, reducing your water heater temperature 20 degrees to 120 degrees can produce as much as a 6 to 10 percent reduction in your energy bill. And reducing your energy consumption reduces the impact on the environment and saves you money - a real win-win.

### What you'll need:

- Screwdriver that matches the screws on the thermostat cover of your electric water heater.
- A flashlight.

STEP  
1

Before making any adjustments to your electric water heater, turn off its electrical supply at the circuit breaker panel.

STEP  
2

To adjust your water heater's temperature setting remove the screws to the lower cover.

STEP  
3

Once you have removed the water heater's thermostat cover, you will see the temperature adjustment knob or slot. If necessary, gently remove the thin layer of insulation over the adjustment knob to expose the adjustment knob. To increase the temperature, turn the knob clockwise - to decrease the temperature, turn the knob counter-clockwise.

STEP  
4

Once you have set the desired temperature, replace the lower cover and any insulation that was removed and screw cover back on.

STEP  
5

Before you re-energize the water heater, inspect the pipes leading to and from the unit to see if they are insulated. If not, a good idea is to wrap them in an approved insulation material.

STEP  
6

Turn the electric water heater back on at the circuit breaker.

**Note:** Your electric water heater may have an additional thermostat in the top of the unit. You would adjust that the same way as the bottom thermostat. Please reference the owner's manual of your water heater for more information specific to your unit.

Water heater wraps are an effective way of improving the efficiency of older units, as well as newer units. Your local hardware store or home improvement retailer may also carry water heater wraps as well. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions for installing it or call a licensed and insured plumber to do it for you.

### ENERGY SAVING TIP



- According to the U.S. Department of Energy, setting your water heater temperature at 120 degrees allows you to achieve maximum efficiency and savings.
- Water heater wraps are an effective way of improving efficiency.

### SAFETY TIPS



- Never set your water heater above 125 degrees or you may run the risk of burning yourself or others.
- Be sure to turn off power to the water heater at the breaker before performing work.
- Wear gloves and safety glasses and watch out for sharp edges on the thermostat and water heater cover.
- If the water heater is in the attic, wear proper footwear and make sure of your footing is secure to prevent injury and or damage to the ceiling.
- If you install a water heater wrap, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions or seek the services of a licensed professional.



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