



Building Safety Tip * Hot Water Temperature

Check the Hot Water Temperature in Your Home

The Warning Signs:

- Water Heater Thermostat Set Higher than 120 Degrees
- Hot Water Temperature Above 120 Degrees at Points of Use
- Steam Visible as Hot Water Flows from Faucet
- No Anti-Scald Devices Installed at Bathtubs and Showers
- Children, the Disabled, and the Elderly Most Susceptible to Injuries from Scalding



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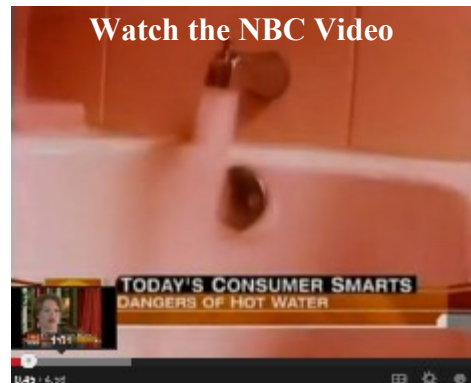
The temperature setting of the water heater in your home should not exceed 120 °F (49 °C). When water temperatures exceed the established threshold, the risk of a serious burn injury increases in relation to the length of time the skin is exposed. Exposure to water of 140 °F (60 °C) can cause a second degree burn on adult skin in as little as 5 seconds. Some individuals can be seriously burned at temperatures as low as 125 °F (52 °C). Children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly are at a higher risk because their skin is more susceptible to damage and they sometimes cannot react to protect themselves as quickly as healthy adults. If your home has bathing fixtures without scald protection devices installed, contact a licensed plumber to evaluate the hot water supply system and make the repairs necessary to safeguard your family.

Watch the NFPA Video



(scroll down on webpage)

Watch the NBC Video



[Read the ASME White Paper](#)

Scald Hazards Associated with Low-Flow Showerheads

A White Paper

Developed by the American Society of Sanitary Engineering Scald Awareness Task Group

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