

Comfortable LIVING



Spring 2020

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Tips for Optimizing Your
Water Heater Temperature

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TIPS FOR OPTIMIZING YOUR WATER HEATER TEMPERATURE

When you turn on your shower or faucet, as long as the water is just the right temperature, you probably don't think about it more than that. But just what is the right temperature? Is there an ideal temperature to set your water heater at so it's as hot as you need it but not too hot as to cost too much?

Here are the considerations that affect that decision.

Scalding vs. Bacteria

If you have children or elderly parents in your home, this is one of the first things you'll need to look at. Safety is your number one concern, especially for vulnerable members of your household. The maximum temperature in the international plumbing code coming out from your faucet or shower is 120°F (49°C). But is it the best temperature at your water heater?

Energy Consumption

Common tanked water heaters maintain the set water temperature even if no one is using it. So while you're away at work and the house is empty, energy is being used to keep your water heated since heat is continually lost through the tank walls throughout the day. To reduce energy consumption, lower temperatures are better.

When you use your hot water, however, you will need to use more at a lower temperature. Your hot water consumption goes up and depending on how much you use, you may even cancel out the energy savings from a lower temperature.

The Answer

Your heater needs to be set to at least 140°F (60°C) to reduce the risk of bacterial growth and disease. You can keep it higher to further reduce your risk but this only benefits you if you consume large amounts of hot water on a daily basis.

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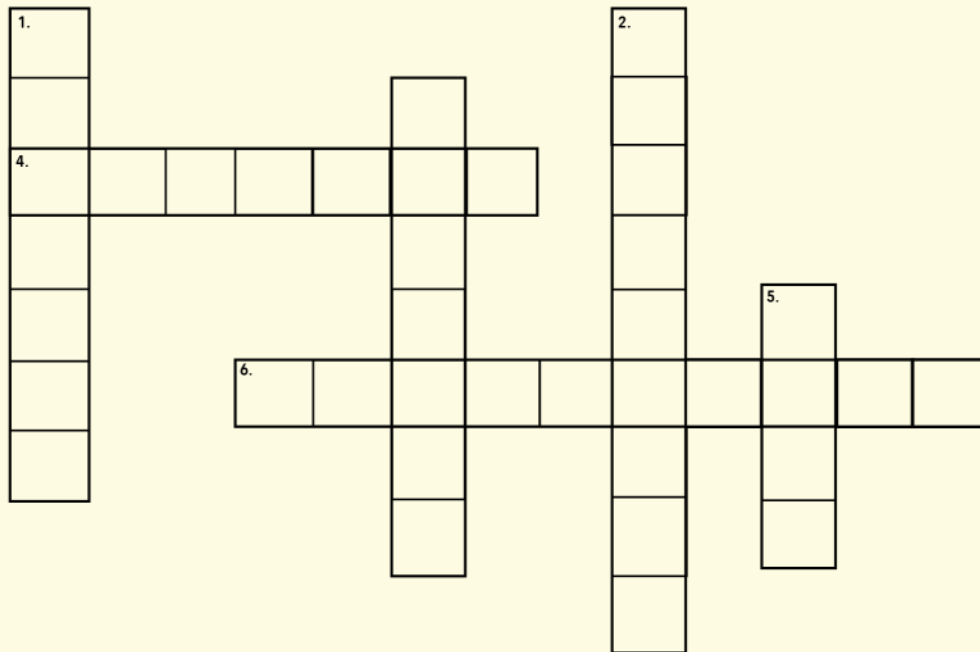
TIPS FOR OPTIMIZING YOUR WATER HEATER TEMPERATURE

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To prevent scalding, you will need a valve that mixes the hot water with cold water and delivers it at a maximum temperature of 120°F or less. You can have one valve for your whole house, called a “mixing valve” or “tempering valve” or you can make use of “stop limits” on each of your faucets to limit how far the handle can be turned so it always delivers water at a safe temperature. This allows hotter water to be used in appliances where there is no risk of scalding.

If you need help figuring out the best hot water solution for your home, give us a call and we can get you the right water heater and right temperature for your needs.

SPRING CROSS WORD PUZZLE



1. April showers bring May _____ .
2. This causes you to sneeze continuously.
3. During Spring, everything becomes bright & _____ .
4. The opposite of Indoors.
5. Children fly this outdoors on a windy spring day.
6. Season following winter is _____ .

ANSWER KEY:

ACROSS: 1. Flowers 2. Allergies 3. Colorful 4. Springtime 5. Kite
DOWN: 1. Outdoor 2. Allergies 3. Colorful 4. Springtime 5. Kite

Joke Section

“When is an apple a grouch?”

“When it is a crab apple!”

“What do Doctors & Plumbers have in common?”

They both bury their mistakes!



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Why You Need To Declutter for This Spring

Is your home cluttered? If so, you're not alone and it's probably causing you some problems. This spring, make an effort to clear out the mess that's harming you and your family.

Physical risks of clutter

Items on the floor can cause slipping and tripping while items on tables and other surfaces can fall off and become tripping hazards.

Excess clutter creates hiding spots for vermin. Just because you don't see spiders, silverfish or mice, doesn't mean they're not there.

Too many items in your mechanical room is dangerous. It might seem like a convenient storage area but clutter can inhibit airflow to your furnace, increasing the risk of carbon monoxide production.

Decluttering has psychological benefits too.

You'll be able to focus better. Fewer distractions in the form of a mess to clean up and things left undone. Each trinket takes up space in your mind as well as physical space in your home, distracting you from important tasks and creating stress.

You'll save time because you'll be able to find everything you need faster. Once everything has its place, you won't waste time searching for important items.

Here are some tips to get it done:

Set aside a block of time. Depending on how much you have to sort through, it will take time but worth it in the end.

Take one space at a time. This might mean a room or just one cupboard or closet. It's easy to get overwhelmed when you survey your entire house so break it down into small chunks.

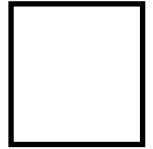
Sort into three piles: "KEEP" (for things you use regularly), "DISCARD" (this includes items to donate or throw away) and "UNSURE". This last pile is to prevent you from wasting time with indecision. It keeps the momentum going so midnight doesn't come with everything still strewn across the floor. Later go through and place special items in the "keep" pile and "discard" remaining.

Pack your "Keep" items away in specific spots so you have easy access to them.

Deal with sentimental items separately. Put them in the "Unsure" pile to start with. Have a box or chest specifically for sentimental items and make sure that everything fits into this one box. As new items are added, try to discard something else.

Actually get rid of your "Discard" items. The whole point of this is to make space and feel better, remember?

Create a system for dealing with new items entering your home. Maintenance is the hardest part. Without a plan that you can easily follow to keep your home clear, more "stuff" will migrate into your empty spaces and pile up again.



TO:

Baked Lemon Bars

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 Cups All-Purpose Flour
- 3 Eggs
- 2/3 Cup Confectioners' Sugar
- 1 1/2 Cups White Sugar
- 1/4 Cup Lemon Juice
- 3/4 Cup Butter or Margarine

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease a 9x13 inch baking pan.
- Combine the flour, 2/3 cup confectioners' sugar, and butter. Pat dough into prepared pan.
- Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, until slightly golden. While the crust is baking whisk together eggs, white sugar, flour, & lemon juice until frothy. Pour this lemon mixture over the hot crust.
- Return the preheated oven for an additional 20 to 25 minutes, or until light golden brown. Cool on a wire rack. Dust the top with confectioners sugar. Cut into squares.

