



## HOW TO ADJUST AN INSTANTANEOUS WATER HEATER

Water heating accounts for about 30 percent of an average Australian household's energy use, "costing" up to \$400 and creating 3,000kg of greenhouse gas. The thermostat on your hot water system needs to be set high enough to deliver water at the required temperature. However the thermostat is often set much higher than is required, increasing your electricity or gas bill.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

You can reduce your water heating costs by simply lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater.

### HOW DO I DO IT?

All instantaneous water heaters can be adjusted. Temperature controls for instantaneous water heaters can have simple mechanical controls or sophisticated electronic controls.

### ELECTRONIC CONTROLLER

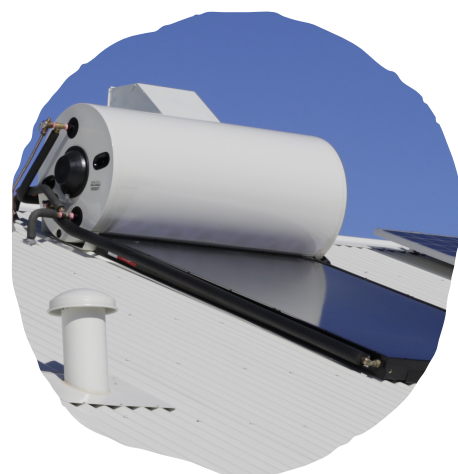
- If you have an electronic control simply use the controller to reduce the temperature to the desired level. Set water temperature to 40-45°C for a satisfying shower and 55°C for kitchen use (e.g. washing up).
- If a controller is not installed, the water heater defaults to the preset outlet temperature. The preset outlet temperature setting of this type of water heater cannot be adjusted by the householder. This setting can only be adjusted by a licensed gas fitter or an Accredited Service Agent.

### MANUAL CONTROL

On some units the temperature controls are accessible on the front of the hot water system. Other units have a cover that you can lift or unscrew by hand to reach the thermostat controls. If the cover hasn't been opened for a while keep in mind there may be spiders inside.

To set the temperature:

1. Locate the thermostat control.
2. Reduce the temperature to 50°C.
3. After turning it down, check the water temperature with a thermometer at the tap farthest from the water heater. Thermostat dials are often inaccurate and several adjustments may be necessary before you get the right temperature.
4. Mark the beginning temperature and the adjusted temperature on the thermostat dial for future reference.
5. If you plan to be away from home for at least 3 days, turn the thermostat down to the lowest setting or completely turn off the water heater.



Altering the setting of the thermostat on your instantaneous water heater is generally easy for the householder. Prior to changing the temperature consult your water heater owner's manual for instructions. If in doubt, a plumber or handyman will be able to alter the temperature setting within a few minutes.

## WHY?

Instantaneous water heaters are often set to heat water to a much higher temperature than is actually required. This means more energy is used to heat the water. It is not unusual to find temperatures over 70°C. By reducing the water temperature setting on your instantaneous water heater to 50°C\* you can significantly reduce your water heating bill. In addition reducing the water temperature minimizes the risk of scalding. Hot water can produce 3rd degree burns in less than 6 seconds at temperatures above 60°C.

\*Storage systems are set to 60°C or higher to reduce health risks associated with storing hot water.

## HANDY HINT

Save money by setting the water temperature so that you can have a satisfying shower with little or no cold in the mix - pay to heat just the water you want to use!

