

Green Tip

How Your Hot Water Heats Up the Planet

Maybe you love the thought of a really hot, soothing shower...stepping out through billows of fragrant steam looking like a boiled lobster and feeling every muscle blissfully relaxed. Or maybe somebody told you that your dishes get cleaner if you wash them at 140°F....

There are a lot of myths out there that say hotter is better...but the truth is that very hot tap water is not only *dangerous* for you and your family, it's also dangerous for the planet!

According to doctors at the Shriners' Hospitals for Children:

- It only takes three seconds to get a second-degree burn at 140°F.
- It only takes five seconds to get a third-degree burn!
- For children, or the elderly, it can take even less time.

That's one very short, very dangerous shower!

Take Action: Turn Your Water Heater Thermostat Setting to 120°F...

For safety's sake, some states require by law that water heater thermostats be set to 120°F at the factory. And most household safety classes urge homeowners to keep the factory setting.

This won't just keep you and your loved ones safe – it will also reduce your energy consumption and your carbon emissions. You see, to maintain that high temperature in its storage tank, your water heater needs to work harder, consume more energy...and release more greenhouse gases.

Your Impact: Save \$30 and 500 lbs of CO₂ Per Year...

Bottom line: keeping your water heater at 120°F will yield a cool savings of 500 lbs. of carbon dioxide and \$30 per year!