

**Village of Vernon Hills
Community Development Department
290 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Phone 847-367-3704 - Fax 847-367-2541 - <http://www.vernonhills.org>**

WATER HEATER

This hand out is for **REFERENCE ONLY**. For more details see specific code sections.

TO APPLY FOR A PERMIT:

As long as the information below is provided at the time of submittal, a permit will be issued immediately over the counter.

1. Complete a permit application.
2. If contractor is installing the water heater, a copy of the contractor's State of Illinois/City of Chicago Plumber's License and a copy of the contractor's Dept. of Public Health Contractor Registration must be on file with the Village or submitted at the time of permit.
3. A \$50 refundable cash bond, paid in cash or check, is required. Note: Once the water heater installation has been inspected and approved by the Village, the permit payer will be refunded the \$50 back in the mail.

IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS (WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS, OFF-HOURS, ETC.) A WATER HEATER MAY BE INSTALLED BY A QUALIFIED PERSON WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING A BUILDING PERMIT. IN ALL SUCH CASES A BUILDING PERMIT SHALL BE SECURED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN INSPECTION SHALL BE MADE.

LOCATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Water heaters must be installed in an accessible location with adequate supply of combustion air.
2. Gas water heaters shall not be installed in habitable rooms (bedrooms, living rooms etc.), hallways and bathrooms unless they are enclosed in a closet designed for that purpose (adequate combustion air, floor drain, adequate flue clearance or enclosure, etc).

INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. A water heater shall be installed by a State of Illinois/City of Chicago Licensed Plumber or, in the case of a single family dwelling, by an owner who is also the occupant.

2. A shut-off valve shall be provided in the cold water line to each water heater as close as possible to the tank.
3. A new pressure-temperature relief valve shall be installed with every new water heater. The discharge line must be metallic pipe and located as not to create a safety hazard or cause damage to the building or its contents. When piped into a floor drain, a fixed one (1) inch air gap shall be maintained.
4. All water heaters installed above the elevation of the plumbing fixtures, ceiling or attic shall be equipped with a vacuum relief valve in the cold water inlet pipe.
5. We require that all water heaters that are installed on the second floor or above, be installed in a safe-pan with a drain piped to the floor drain.
6. All flue pipe sections and fittings shall be properly screwed and supported.
7. All gas water heaters shall be equipped with a gas shut-off valve. All electric water heaters shall be equipped with a disconnect switch.
8. When connecting dissimilar metals (steel pipe of a water heater to the copper piping of the house), dielectric unions shall be used.

REQUIRED INSPECTIONS:

The permit holder is responsible for scheduling an inspection. To request an inspection, contact the Building Division at 847-367-3704 between the hours of 8:30AM and 3:30PM, Monday through Friday, at least one working day in advance with the permit number ready.

1. Call for a final inspection after the water heater has been installed. Homeowner must be present for inspection.

SAFETY TIPS

Every year a few water heaters explode with devastating results. To make sure yours is safe, follow these simple steps:

Remove paper, accumulated dust or other combustibles from the heater enclosure.

Extinguish the pilot light before using flammable liquids or setting off aerosol bug bombs near unit. Never store combustibles close by.

If the device is in the garage, raise it so the pilot light is 18 inches above the floor. This can help prevent ignition of gasoline vapors that collect near the floor.

Inspect the flue for breaks or gaps that could leak deadly exhaust gas. (This is a good practice to do on other gas appliances.)

Ask your service technician to check the temperature pressure-relief valve, a faucet-like device mounted on the top or side of the heater. Excessively high temperature or pressure causes this valve to open, relieving pressure and preventing a steam explosion.

Consider installing an automatic gas-shutoff valve (below) that stops the flow of gas if the ground moves or if gas flow increases dramatically. The valve, which costs around \$300, prevents fire when a gas line breaks due to flood, earthquakes or other disaster. Some utility companies will install one and let you pay it off monthly.

*Copyright 1997 The Home Resource Center.

WATER HEATER PROTECTION

(Air date: 9/12/99)

New technology may soon prevent water heaters from igniting flammable vapors. That dangerous combustion caused nearly 2000 fires, 320 injuries and 20 deaths every year. But one company has found a way to make water heaters safer. Consumer Reporter Marlo Brawer tells us about this new flame guard on the water heater.

American Water Heater Company developed the Flame Guard Safety System to allow water heaters to operate safely. We showed this test video in June 1999. A gas can tips over...within seconds, the water heater pilot ignites the vapors causing a flashback fire or explosion. The new Flame Guard technology will confine the flame within the hot water heater and prevent scenes like this.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission commended the company for coming up with this safety improvement—one that will most certainly save lives. The new Flame Guard Safety System has been available to consumers since October 1999.

*<http://www.9online.com/investigators/consumer/CW81299.htm>

Village of Vernon Hills
Community Development Department
290 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Phone 847-367-3704 - Fax 847-367-2541 - http:// www.vernonhills.org

**PERMIT APPLICATION
WATER HEATER**

(PLEASE PRINT)

Business or Homeowner Name: _____

Project Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Applicant's Name: _____
(If different from above)

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Answer the following:

Cost of Water Heater \$ _____

Is the Water Heater: Gas
 Electric

Gallon Size _____

Warranty (Years) _____

Work being performed by:

- Homeowner
- Contractor Info:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-Mail:** _____