



NATIONAL PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC.
TECHNICAL BULLETIN
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TOPIC: IDENTIFYING THE AGE OF WATER HEATERS:

Finding the age of a hot water heater can be confusing at times, but the information is normally coded within the first four positions of the serial number depending on the brand name and manufacturer. Some manufacturers of water heaters will label their heaters with either their own brand name or one of many different brand names. As an example, the American Water Heater Company produces over 30 different brand names.

MANUFACTURER: AMERICAN and US CRAFT MASTER

BRAND NAMES: ACE, American, American Hardware, America's Best, Apex, Aqua Temp, AquaTherm, Aquamatic, Best, Best Deluxe, Champion, Craftmaster, De-Limer, Deluxe, Eagle, The Earl's Energy Conservation Water Heater, The Earl's Energy Saver Plus, Envirotemp, Four Most, Hotmaster, Hotstream, King-Kleen, King-Line, Master Plumber, Nationaline, Neptune, Penguin, Premier Plus, Premier Plus Self Cleaning Prestige, ProLine and ProLine Plus, Quaker, Quick-Flo, Raywall, Revere, Riveria, Sands, Sentinal, Servi-Star, Shamrock, Special Deluxe, Standard, Super Eagle, Super-Flo, Supreme, Sure-Fire, Thoro-Clean, Tru-Test, Tru Value, U.S. Supply, XCL Energy Saver

HOW TO DECIPHER: first 2 digits = year, second 2 digits = week
EXAMPLE: 8705 = year 1987, and the fifth week of the year

MANUFACTURER: BRADFORD-WHITE

BRAND NAMES: Bradford White, Jet Glass

HOW TO DECIPHER: first letter = year starting with A as 1984, second letter = month Jan =A
Some letters are not used in the year code, starting in 2004 the scheme starts over with A again:
A=1984, B=1985, C=1986, D=1987, E=1988, F=1989, G=1990, H=1991, J=1992, K=1993, L=1994,
M=1995, N=1996, P=1997, S=1998, T=1999, W=2000, X=2001, Y=2002, Z=2003, A=2004, B=2005

EXAMPLE: EC= year 1988 and month=March, or HH = year is 1991 and month=AUG
It should be easy to identify whether a serial number starting with A was made in 1984 or 2004

MANUFACTURER: GWS WATER HEATING

BRAND NAMES: John Wood, GSW, Moffat, Superflue, Medal

HOW TO DECIPHER: first 2 digits = year, second 2 digits = month
EXAMPLE: 8811 = year 1988, month = November

MANUFACTURER: MARATHON

BRAND NAMES: Marathon

HOW TO DECIPHER: first 2 digits = month, second 2 digits = year
EXAMPLE: 0390 = month of March, year 1990

MANUFACTURER: RHEEM

BRAND NAMES: Aqua Therm, General Electric, Hotpoint, Professional, Rheem, Vanguard, Western, Auto

HOW TO DECIPHER: first 2 digits = month, second 2 digits = year

EXAMPLE: 0390 = month of March, year 1990

MANUFACTURER: RICHMOND

BRAND NAMES: Richmond

HOW TO DECIPHER: first 2 digits = month, second 2 digits = year

EXAMPLE: 0390 = month of March, year 1990

MANUFACTURER: RUUD

BRAND NAMES: Ruud, Professional

HOW TO DECIPHER: first 2 digits = month, second 2 digits = year

EXAMPLE: 0390 = month of March, year 1990

MANUFACTURER: A.O. SMITH WATER PRODUCTS

BRAND NAMES: A.O. Smith, National, Glascoate, Perma-Glas

HOW TO DECIPHER: second position=month, third and fourth digits = year

EXAMPLE: ignore the first position, xC90 = month of March, year 1990

MANUFACTURER: STATE INDUSTRIES

BRAND NAMES: State

HOW TO DECIPHER: first letter = month, A=Jan, second and third digits=year

EXAMPLE: C90 = month of March, year 1990

This list does not include every brand of water heater made, but is a representative of the many different codes currently being used.

This bulletin has been drafted to be general in nature and not technically exhaustive.