

Electric/Gas Hot Water Heater

I recently had a gentleman ask a question about his electric/gas hot water heater. He uses his water heater on electric (110V) instead of gas to save on the cost of LP gas. His question was, is it safe to leave it on electric all the time. He stated that the water seems to reach a very high temperature...he feels that when it is on electric it just keeps heating.

The Atwood combination gas/electric water heater can be operated on gas or electric or in combination. The current model water heaters have a thermostat that is set at 140 degrees; the same thermostat is used to control both gas and electric. Earlier models (prior to 2003) had two separate thermostats, the gas thermostat was located on the outside of the tank below the pressure relief valve and the electric thermostat was located on the back of the tank.

The thermostat will shut off when temperature reaches 140 degrees and start the heating process when temperature drops below 115 degrees. If the thermostat should fail the water heater also has an ECO (energy cut off device) that will shut the heater down at 170 degrees. Also the water heater has a pressure relief valve that will open at approximately 210 degrees or between 125/150 PSI.

It is safe to use your water heater on 110V only with no adverse affects. You may also use both gas and electric at the same time to reduce the cycling time of heating cold water, it can typically take up to 40 minutes to heat water to 140 degrees using 110V and that time can be reduced to about 20 minutes by using both heat sources.

If you do not feel your water heater is operating properly please contact a Certified Atwood Service Center.

If you have not operated your water heater on gas for several weeks you may want to check your main burner tube and flue tube for obstructions before firing up the heater. Spider webs, insects and other debris can accumulate causing problems with the gas flow in the tubes.