



Walk-in Tubs and Water Heater Sizing

Tank Heaters

For a regular size walk-in tub, the recommended minimum tank size for electric or gas tank water heaters is 50 gallons. Normally one can assume a 70% hot water output from any tank heater (tank heater manufacturers can provide specifications and recommendations.) A 70% output should provide roughly 35 gallons of hot water from a 50-gallon tank with the thermostat set to the industry standard of 120 degrees F. ASSE 1070 standard with a maximum temperature of 120° F at the tap.

As a construction industry rule of thumb, the water mixture for a comfortable bath is roughly two-thirds (2/3) hot water to one-third (1/3) cold water. Since the typical water requirement to fill a regular size walk-in tub is 40-50 gallons depending on the user's size, roughly 30-35 gallons of hot water will be needed for the fully filled occupied tub. As a point of reference, Some Manufactures equips its tubs with faucets capable of 18 gallons per minute flow rate. To have a heater installed in a tub the tub shall be UL rated.

As a side note, the BTU rating (for gas heaters) and the wattage (for electric heaters) only have an effect on the recovery rate of the hot water level for the heater, not the total possible hot water output.

Tankless Heaters

Tankless water heaters require special consideration with regards to water flow rate and temperature rise from the source. When opting for a tankless water heater both ratings should be as high as possible. Flow rates vary by heater manufacturer and model. Contact the water heater manufacturer for exact specifications and recommendations. On average, the rise needs to be around 70 degrees F. For example, this will take 50 degrees F incoming cold water and raise it to 120 degrees F hot water output. These two factors should be chosen based on the homeowner's budget, current electrical setup and desired fill time. As a point of reference, Some Manufactures equips its tubs with faucets capable of 18 gallons per minute flow rate. To have a heater installed in a tub the tube shall be UL rated.

For Permitting and Plan Review, the Contractor shall provide the following information:

1. The size of the existing water heater _____ gal., wattage size _____, Voltage _____.
2. The Fully filled Occupied Tub gallonage requirement _____ gallons.
3. Mixing valves can extend the capacity of your existing hot water tank. The mixing action gives you up to 60-gallon capacity from a 40-gallon tank by storing water at a higher temperature and then mixing it down to a safe 120° F or lower — giving you more hot water for your home. And when it's time to buy your next hot water tank, you can save money by purchasing a smaller tank without worrying about a cold shower
 - A. Provide the Make _____ and Model number _____ of the mixing valve.
 - B. The Mixing valve shall be tamper proof.
 - C. Provide a thermometer on the discharge of the mixing valve with a dial setting not to exceed 160 degrees.

D. The flow rate of the mixing valve shall be equal for the flow rate of the occupancy.

1. Flow rate of Occupancy _____

2. Flow rate of the mixing valve, _____

This form shall be filled out and signed by both the contractor and the owner of the property and notarized. Then submitted with the permit package for review and approval for a permit. The owner shall approve one of the following procedures by initializing next to the choice of installation.

1. The replacement of the water heater for the fully filled occupied tub volume.

2. The Installation of the mixing valve to provide the fully filled occupied tub volume.

Owner signature _____

Print Owner's name _____

Contractor signature _____

Print Contractor's name _____

State of Florida

County of _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____

by _____ whom is personally known to me _____ or has provided the following

identification _____

Notary Public's Signature