

# D.I.Y. Energy Conservation Recipe Card



## *Lowering Water Heater Temperature*

Some water heaters are set to 140 degrees by manufacturers. Most

households usually only require them to be at 120 degrees. There are two money saving factors that come from turning down your water heater temperature:

1. Reduced standby losses
2. Consumption

If you set your water heater too high it can waste anywhere between \$36-\$61 annually. If your dishwasher doesn't have a booster heater you may have to keep the temperature to 130-140 degrees. Booster heaters for dishwashers raise the temperature of the water from your kitchen's water heater.

## *What to Know Before:*

Where do you find the thermostat dial?

- **Gas Water Heater:** Near the bottom of the tank of gas valve.
- **Electric Water Heater:** May be positioned behind screw-on plates or panels. May also have two thermostats one each for the upper and lower floors.

## Materials:

1. Thermometer

## Directions:

1. Take the current temperature of the tap water from the faucet that is the furthest from the heater.
2. Take note where the temperature is on the thermometer and then turn the thermostat down on the water heater.
3. Wait a couple of hours and test the temperature of the tap from the furthest one from the heater.
4. If you like where the temperature is at make note of where the water temperature is at for future reference.

## Cost:

\$\$\$\$\$ Free!

Brought to you by:



University of Colorado  
Colorado Springs

