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TO: Property Owners/Managers and Tenants  
SUBJECT: Temperature & Pressure Relief Valves (T&PRV) on water heaters.

The two basic requirements regarding water heaters are:

- 1) That each water heater must have an “over temperature protection device” (energy cut-off system or automatic gas shut-off device). This is most likely built into the water heater by the manufacturer and would be indicated by a label on the unit similar to the examples in Fig. 1 below. Add-on energy cut-off devices cannot be used in lieu of a pressure relief valve.
- 2) There must be a **Temperature and Pressure Relief Valve** on the water heater tank or a **Pressure Relief Valve (PRV)** at another location on the unit’s water system. To place a **PRV** at a location not directly on the water heater, a label as mentioned above and show in Fig. 1 below **must** be visible on the water heater unit. If there is no such label visible, then a **T&PRV** must be installed on the water heater tank.

Figures 2, 3, & 4 on the reverse are illustrations of typical installations.

Figure 2 PRV at a location other than the water heater; Allowable only if the system piping is equal or larger in size to the PRV’s outlet diameter (usually 3/4” on residential units, larger on multi-family).

Figures 3 and 4; Typical installation of T&PRV on the unit’s tank. Must be installed in the factory-supplied hole on the top of the tank or on the side of the tank within 6 inches of the top. The drain line from the T&PRV must be of the same diameter as the valve. The drain line is preferably directed to the exterior of the unit and terminated within 24 inches of the ground as shown in Fig. 3. If the location of the water heater in the residence makes this impractical, the drain line can be terminated in the water heater closet within 6 inches of the floor and should dump into a metal container as shown in Fig. 4. The terminus of the drain line must not be threaded.

In either case, the required drain line must be either galvanized steel or copper. Plastic piping approved for this use and clearly labeled is allowed. Ordinary PVC pipe is not allowed for use as a drain line on a pressure relief system.

Fig. 1 Typical Manufacturer’s Labels

“AUTOMATIC STORAGE WATER HEATER”  
  
THIS HEATER IS EQUIPPED WITH AN AUTOMATIC GAS SHUTOFF SYSTEM ACTIVATED BY HIGH WATER TEMPERATURE. A LISTED TEMPERATURE AND PRESSURE RELIEF VALVE SHALL BE INSTALLED AT THE TIME OF INSTALLATION OF THE HEATER. LOCAL CODES SHALL GOVERN THE INSTALLATION OF RELIEF DEVICES. FOR SAFE OPERATION OF THE WATER HEATER, THE RELIEF VALVE MUST NOT BE REMOVED OR PLUGGED.

(Usually found on tank)

THE AUTOMATIC GAS SHUT-OFF SYSTEM ACTUATED BY HIGH WATER TEMPERATURE IS A SINGLE USE TYPE, (NON-RECYCLING). IF THE CURCUIT IS OPEN, REPLACE COMPLETE CONTROL.

(Usually found on control unit)

