



DPU Scoop



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Home Component Safety Series: Water Heaters

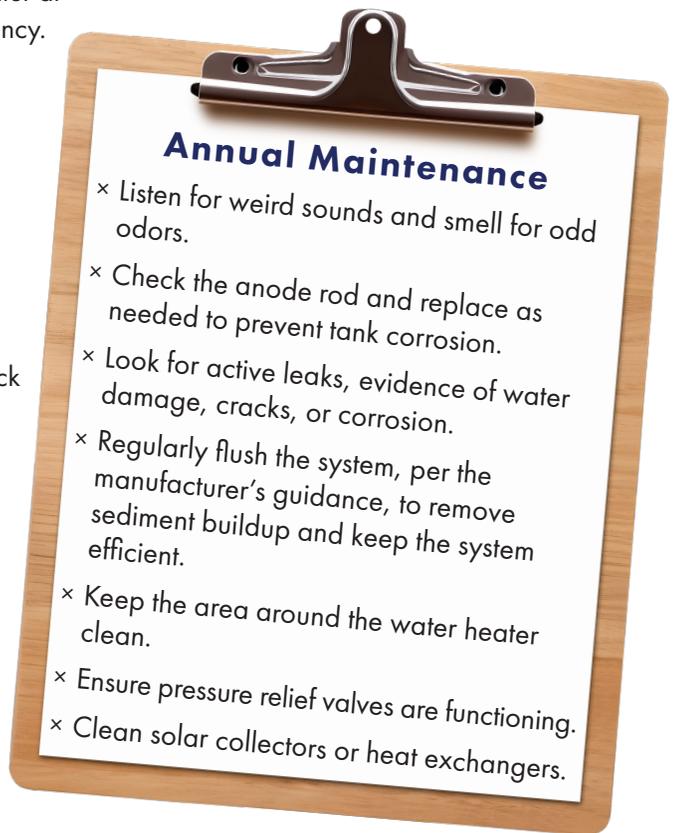
For this month's safety consideration series, we'll be exploring water heating systems. Every water heater, depending on its fuel source (natural gas, electricity, the sun), has a variety of safety issues. However, two of the primary safety concerns that can impact all water heaters regardless of fuel are easy to mitigate: bacteria and scalding.

The Department of Energy recommends setting your water heater at 120°F as the optimal temperature for safety and energy efficiency.

Temperatures set below 120°F promote the growth of Legionella bacteria.
Temperatures set above 140°F will scald unprepared water users.

How do you know what your water temp is? Turn on the hot water at the fixture farthest from the hot water heater and let it run a few minutes to make sure the hottest water is running. Stick a thermometer in the water stream and let the temperature reading stabilize. Adjust the temperature setting on your hot water heater until the desired temperature is read via the thermometer at that farthest fixture.

Please be aware that if this fixture is located some distance away and the hot water pipes are uninsulated, this will raise the hot water temperature at fixtures located closer to the hot water heater. If water temperatures at closer fixtures are above 140°F, it is advisable to insulate water pipes or perhaps consider additional equipment to ensure safe water temperatures throughout your home.



SAFETY SERIES

Time-of-use & demand rates in the works for residential customers

Beginning in July 2026, residential customers will see different rates in the electricity section of their bills.

The rates:

- Time of Use (TOU) will have two rates: off-peak (at 11¢ per kWh) and on-peak (at 19.7¢ per kWh)
 - » Off-Peak hours are 11PM – 5PM
 - » On-Peak hours are 5PM – 11PM
- Demand will have one rate: \$1.00 per kW
- Demand is charged once per billing cycle, at the single highest hour of usage, and is independent of TOU

Time-of-Use is what it sounds like. Charges are calculated by when you use electricity and how much you consume.

Demand is the highest amount you use—or demand—at one time. This becomes apparent when you run a dryer, the oven, and other energy hogs all at once, referred to as “appliance stacking.”

Why this structure? When all 7500 of our residential accounts are using and demanding electricity at the same time, our collective demand and need for electricity is greater. This results in more expensive power purchases and higher costs for grid maintenance, and that leads to higher rates for all of us.

What can you do now?

- Familiarize yourself with your hourly usage and habits. Log onto your Automated Meter Infrastructure portal online at ladpu.com/mymeters.
- If you're accomplishing many things between 5PM and 11PM, think about what activities or chores you could shift to other times.
- If your appliances have delay or scheduling functionality, shift their usage outside of on-peak hours.

Learn more about TOU and demand and explore more tools online at ladpu.com/TOU.

Is it time to replace my hot water heater?

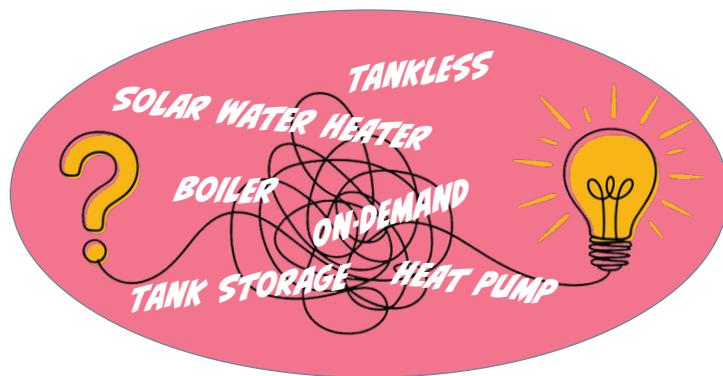
Your water heater might be giving you hints that it's time for replacement. Pay attention so you don't find yourself standing in a shockingly cold shower!

- When set at the hottest temp setting, does it provide only lukewarm water?
- Is murky or funny tasting water coming out of faucets?
- Are there leaks or evidence of water damage on or around the water heater?
- Is it older than 10 years? Even if your system is still functioning, its efficiency declines over time, costing you more.

With so many different types of water heaters available, doing a little research now will help you determine how to replace your existing appliance at end-of-life. This is especially important if you don't have an off-the-shelf system or are considering switching to something different and need the assistance of a professional.

Consider how the following apply to your household:

- What fuel source (gas, electricity, sun) are you comfortable with when it comes to home health or cost?
- What size water heater is necessary to accommodate all the people in your household and general hot water needs?
- What is your budget, both for install and for operation?
- A lot of homes here have water heaters tucked in creative spaces. If you're changing up your hot water heater, will the one you want fit in your house?
- How much control do you want over when water is being heated?



Check out the Department of Energy's "Selecting a New Water Heater" webpage for additional guidance:

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/selecting-new-water-heater>
or find that link in the DPU's linktree: <https://ladpu.com/links>.

WIPES CLOG PIPES!

Put in Trash, NOT in Toilet:

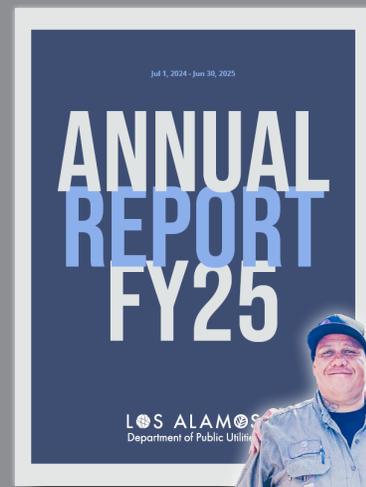


Disinfecting Wipes
Paper Towels
Baby Wipes
Towelettes
Mop Refills



FISCAL YEAR 2025 DEPT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ANNUAL REPORT

Find it online at ladpu.com/FY2025AR beginning 3/4/2026



WANTED: TEEN LEADERS

DPU is accepting entry forms and essays for the ICUA* Youth Rally, an opportunity that is available to high school sophomores and juniors living in or going to school in Los Alamos and other UAMPS** member communities. Four high school students will be selected by UAMPS to receive \$500 scholarships and sponsorships to this year's annual ICUA Youth Rally at the Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho. Once there, they'll learn a lot, have a ton of fun, and get the chance to earn even more scholarship money!

ICUA Youth Rally dates: July 6-10

Application/essay deadline: April 3

More info online: ladpu.com/YouthRally



*Idaho Consumer Owned Utilities Association ** Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems

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