



Date: December 20, 1999  
Subject: Gas Water Heater Conversion Policy  
To: All Accounts

No. 137 Rev. 2

\* This supersedes all previous letters and field bulletins concerning residential and commercial water heater conversion.

**GAS WATER HEATER CONVERSION POLICY**

All A.O. Smith Water Products Company's residential and commercial gas water heaters are designed certified by CSA or UL, under ANSI Standards for operation on one type of gas only, as indicated on the water heater's model number and rating plate.

A.O. Smith realizes that there may be certain situations where a field conversion may be necessary and in order to facilitate such a conversion, A. O. Smith complies with CSA or UL regulations ensuring that a field conversion be appropriately and safely completed.

An improper field conversion from one type of gas to another could cause potentially dangerous conditions that may cause an explosion or fire resulting in property damage, bodily injury or both.

**A.O. SMITH WILL ONLY ALLOW THE CONVERSION OF GAS WATER HEATERS FROM LP GAS (PROPANE) TO NATURAL GAS. THE CONVERSION OF A GAS WATER HEATER FROM NATURAL GAS TO LP GAS (PROPANE) IS NOT ALLOWED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

A.O. Smith will provide kits as demand warrants through our Parts Department, phone no. 1-800-433-2545. Prices, dimensions and specifications are subject to change without notice.

Each conversion kit is to be installed by an A.O. Smith service agent or a gas utility serviceman in accordance with A.O. Smith's written instructions and all codes and requirements of the authority having jurisdiction. Failure to follow instructions could result in serious injury or property damage. The utility performing this work assumes responsibility for this conversion.

**Changing the Input on Gas Water Heaters**

The only changes to the input of a gas water heater allowed are:

Adjustments to match that shown on the rating plate of the heater. The installation instructions supplied with the heater indicate if adjustments to input are a required procedure.

Changes made as required to adjust the heater for proper operation at high altitude as determined by a qualified service technician. Service manuals include the proper procedure for adjusting heaters at high altitudes.

**Conversion of Gas Water Heaters**

The conversion of LP gas (Propane) to Natural gas is ONLY allowed providing:

The conversion is done as part of a gas utility's program where propane appliances were installed anticipating the completion of natural gas service to the area. The conversion must be done under the direct supervision of the utility and by their service representatives.

Claims of damage or injury arising from the unauthorized conversion of any A.O. Smith water heater not design certified for conversion will be the complete and total responsibility of the person or entity making the conversion.

If you have any questions regarding the above policy, please contact the A.O. Smith Parts Department at 1-800-433-2545 or our Technical Information Center at 1-800-527-1953.

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>BT-80</u>	<u>BT-100</u>
1	Anode Rod .....	43817-42	43817-50
2	Baffle, Flue .....	10089-1	160698-1
3	Base, Jacket .....	39921-4	39921
4	Bolt, Special .....	20093-3	20093-3
5	Burner, Main:		
	Natural Gas .....	41157	41157-1
	Propane Gas .....	41157	41157-1
6	Burner, Pilot:		
	Natural Gas .....	<u>160228</u>	<u>160228</u>
	Propane Gas .....	<u>160228-1</u>	<u>160228-1</u>
	Cleanout Assembly:		
7	Cover, Cleanout .....	<u>99037</u>	<u>99037</u>
8	Gasket .....	<u>99038</u>	<u>99038</u>
9	Screw .....	69852-1	69852-1
10	Collar, Pipe .....	20172-14	20172-14
11	Cover, Front .....	181260	181260
12	Cover, Top .....	180926	181256
13	Dirt Leg (Propane Gas Only) .....	43761	43761
14	Door, Inner .....	39923	39923
15	Door, Outer .....	39112-1	39112-1
16	Hood, Draft .....	39072	39072
17	Insulator .....	33581-1	33581-1
18	Jacket, Outer .....	39972-3	39945-2
19	* Labels:		
	California .....	42985	42985
	Cleanout .....	78754	78754
	Inlet Tube .....	40447-3	40447-3
	Instruction:		
	Natural Gas .....	182566-0	182566-0
	Propane Gas .....	182566-1	182566-1
	Lime Tamer .....	78640	78640
	Relief Valve .....	191068	191068
	800 Help Line .....	190600	190600
20	Label, Lighting and Operating .....	182106	182106
21	# Leg .....	160937-1	160937-1
22	Loop, Bolt .....	29511	29511
23	* Manual, Instruction .....	182588-0	182588-0
24	Nipple, Pipe .....	43879	41319
25	Orifice, Main Burner:		
	Natural Gas .....	29366-23	29366-19
	Propane Gas .....	181778-37	181778-37
26	Orifice, Pilot Burner:		
	Natural Gas .....	21058	21058
	Propane Gas .....	21059	21059
27	Restrictor, Flue .....	35405	35405
28	* Shield, Radiation - Lower .....	----	----
29	Shield, Radiation - Upper .....	39098-1	39098
30	Shutter, Air .....	35376	35376
31	Thermocouple .....	<u>35489-2</u>	<u>35489-2</u>
32	Thermostat:		
	Natural Gas .....	<u>190015</u>	<u>190015</u>
	Propane Gas .....	<u>191855</u>	<u>191855</u>
33	Tube, Burner .....	39114-1	39114-1
34	Tube, Inlet .....	41312-26	41314-30
35	Tube, Pilot .....	160190	160190
36	Valve, Drain .....	26273-7	26273-7
37	Valve, T & P .....	43151	43151

\* Not illustrated.

Part numbers underlined are recommended stock items for emergency replacements.  
Request parts from Water Products Company by giving all information such as model and series number, type of gas and specifications.  
For delimiting procedures, request manual no. 4800.  
Parts list PSD-3-598/a supersedes PSD-3-598.