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I. Introduction To Commercial Water Heating

Parameters .................................................. 2-3
What Is Hot Water? ........................................... 3-4
Evaluating Water ............................................. 4

II. Principles of Sizing

Hot Water Demand .......................................... 5
Profiles of Operation ........................................ 5-6

III. Equipment Performance

Recovery Capacity Tables ................................... 6-7
Storage Capacity And Tank Efficiency .................... 7
Gas and Oil - Fired Tank Type Heaters .................. 8
Gas Copper Heat Exchanger Type Heaters ................. 8
Electric Tank Type Heaters .................................. 8
Auxiliary Tank (Unfired) ..................................... 9
Heater Recovery Plus Storage Tank Equals Demand .... 9
Heater Recovery And Storage Tank Performance Comparison .......... 9-10
When Using Electricity to Heat Water ................. 10
Estimating Water Heating Costs .......................... 10-11

IV. System Types And Application

Design Objectives .......................................... 11
System Types ................................................ 11
Tank Type Water Heater Systems Using Gas, Oil and Electricity .. 12
Copper Type Water Heater Systems Using Gas .......... 13
Creating The Successful System .......................... 14

V. Sizing To Customer Requirements

Using Prepared Information ................................ 14-15
One Temperature System .................................... 15-16
Two Temperature System ................................... 16
Sizing Without Prepared Information ...................... 17-19
Field Assistance .............................................. 19
Acc-U-Size Sizing Software ................................ 19

FOREWORD

This guide is different than most produced by the water heating industry. Instead of just referring you to prepared sizing information (i.e. A.O. Smith publication CH-8100) the guide shows you how it’s done. Then, when new model heaters are introduced or applications are different, you will have the information necessary to proceed on your own with confidence.

You will learn how to evaluate water characteristics which could affect system life and performance, develop a profile of system operation to establish demand and recovery periods, size energy and storage requirements to meet system demands and, all told, create a successful commercial water heating system.

I. INTRODUCTION TO COMMERCIAL WATER HEATING

Parameters

A water heater is an appliance for supplying hot water for residential or commercial use other than space heating. The maximum outlet water temperature for a water heater is 210°F (98.5°C).

Water heaters are sometimes called boilers and may be so labeled. This is because the gallon capacity of the tank and/or the energy input is above a level for which some codes require ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) construction. Essentially the requirement applies when the water-containing capacity is in excess of 120 gallons or the heat input is above 200,000 Btu/h (58.6 kW). Caution, some local inspectors interpret the code to mean including 120 gallons and 200,000 Btu/h. The “boiler” requirement can cause cost escalation or system rejection if not taken into consideration by the system designer. One way that more expensive heater costs are often avoided is by combining several “smaller” heaters into a system instead of one large unit.

The term water heater and water heating system is used interchangeably in this technical guide. The water heating system may consist of one or more water heaters installed individually at points-of-use or manifolded together to form a central system. Some systems are comprised of water heater(s), with or without storage, hot water storage tanks, circulating pump, related piping and controls.
The major objective of this presentation is to promote the design of energy-efficient commercial water heating systems through proper sizing, equipment recommendations and system selection. Properly designed commercial and industrial water heating systems are essential to the health and well being of the community. Some activities would have to suspend operations or risk serious health and comfort problems if they do not have the quantity of hot water at the temperature needed during the time it is required.

Therefore, the key to proper water heating system design is to identify the quantity, temperature and time characteristics of the hot water requirement. Also, space available for equipment should be noted.

But first, a knowledge of water and its characteristics is necessary in order to effectively design a water heating system.

**What is Hot Water?**

Hot water is water to which heat energy has been added... as more heat is added the water becomes hotter. This water temperature guide shows typical water heating system design temperatures.

In practice, the system designer will establish the temperature or temperatures of hot water needed for the various activities through consultation with the user or their representative. It is also necessary for the system designer to know the coldest entering water temperature in order to determine temperature rise.

*The average temperature of the hot and cold water mixture applied to the body. The hot water being normally obtained from the commercial water heating system at 140°F.*
Evaluating Water

The coldest water inlet temperature experienced during the year should be the base from which the maximum system temperature rise is established. Your water supplier can provide this information. Surface water sources such as lakes and rivers tend to fluctuate as the seasons change. Well water remains relatively constant in temperature year round. A water heating system supplied with varying incoming water temperatures will only provide adequate hot water if the lowest cold water temperature encountered is used in the temperature rise calculation.

Other characteristics of the water supply which should be determined and evaluated by the system designer include supply pressure, water hardness and the presence of silt. These facts may be obtained by contacting your water supplier.

High water supply pressure (above the rated working pressure of the heater) should be reduced by a water pressure reducing valve set to about 50 psig. This will also reduce water consumption but, more important, will bring the water pressure well within the working pressure range of the heater. It is then possible to provide proper relief valve protection on the heater.

It is also necessary to provide water pressure reducing valves on the 180°F rinse lines of dishwashers.

Hardness is the term applied to the compounds of calcium and magnesium present in hard water. So common are these two minerals in water that practically no supply can be found that does not contain at least 1 or 2 grains per gallon. Hardness is also stated in parts per million. One grain of hardness is equal to 17.1 parts per million. Water containing less than 1 grain per gallon of dissolved calcium and magnesium hardness minerals is considered soft water.

The significance of hardness is that the heat transfer surfaces of the water heater will become coated or blocked with the mineral deposits. Depending upon the type of heater, less hot water, noisy operation, increased energy costs and premature equipment failure are some of the problems which may result from “hard” water. The system designer should select water heating equipment which is capable of being delined or repaired when used in hard water areas.

If the water supply contains silt or sediment, the water heating equipment should be capable of being flushed (and have sediment risers installed in horizontal storage tanks) to extend heater life and minimize energy expense.

The effects of hard water and silt upon the heating equipment can be minimized by lowering water temperature, controlling flow, leakage and waste. For example, fixture and shower head flow controls are a must to minimize hot water consumption and regulate the flow to system design.

Energy saving fixtures benefit the user by reducing water and sewerage charges, energy and maintenance costs. Reducing consumption through flow control is the one way initial cost, operating costs and the space to be occupied by a new water heating system can be dramatically reduced.
II. PRINCIPLES OF SIZING

Hot Water Demand

The major determination in sizing and the basis of all computations is establishing the probable demand for hot water. In addition, any unusual conditions which might relate to hot water consumption must also be recognized and planned for. Unusual conditions will be described under Profiles of Operation.

Sources of hot water demand information include the ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers) Guide, hot water using equipment manufacturers such as dishwasher and washing machine makers, and the A.O. Smith Commercial Water Heating Manual. The A. O. Smith manual, in contrast to other sources of hot water usage data, not only provides probable demand but also equipment and system design recommendations. Government agencies may also require demand criteria be met.

Profiles of Operation

The system designer should draw a profile of the proposed system hot water usage demand period. The profile will also include the recovery period available before the next demand. Demand and recovery periods can be measured in seconds, minutes or hours.

Any unusual needs for hot water during the demand or recovery periods are identified in order to provide additional tank and/or recovery capacity. An unusual need could be a lesser, but significant hot water requirement just after the demand period. For example, a motel could have a laundry operation which begins in mid-morning, after the guest shower load is over. If not taken into consideration there may be no hot water available for the washing machines.

An oversimplification of system design is to say that systems are either for intermittent use or continuous use as shown in the following profiles.

![Intermittent Use Profile](image)

This example shows two demand and recovery periods within a day.

- A combination of heater recovery and hot water storage capacity should be selected to handle the demands.
- The demands are separated by an 8 and a 12 hour recovery period.
- The heater recovery capacity of the shortest recovery period must be sufficient to heat all the water in storage.
- Short demands usually mean placing emphasis on tank size. Heater recovery capacity is emphasized on longer demands.
- The dividing line between long and short demands is about 3 to 4 hours.
- In this example storage is most important.
  - The purpose of the storage tank is to permit relatively low heater recovery capacity while still maintaining adequate hot water supply during the demand period.
• This example could represent an industrial process which is operated for two continuous shifts a day.

• Hot water is used at a maximum rate of 3.3 gpm or 198 gph. (It is important to establish maximum flow rate and water temperature rise in order to select a heater model.)

• In this example heater recovery is most important as the system for all practical purposes is an instantaneous one. That is, it heats the water at the rate it is being used.

• If a tank type water heater is used, the tank size is minimum . . . just large enough to put the heat into the water.

III. EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE

Recovery capacity Tables

Recovery capacity tables are the published results of laboratory tests which establish the ability of a heater to raise the temperature of a given volume of water a certain number of degrees within a given time period.

Recovery tables are prepared for all A.O. Smith commercial water heaters regardless of the type fuel used. In each instance the thermal efficiency of the particular type heater has been taken into consideration.

The tables shown here are representative for the types of heaters produced by A.O. Smith using a variety of fuels. In this publication, for electricity, recovery at 1 kw for various temperature rises is shown. The table can then be used without regard to model number as all electric heaters are considered 100% thermal efficient.
When used at altitudes of 2000' or more above sea level, gas-fired heater recovery capacities must be derated 4% for each 1000' above sea level in order to reflect actual recovery.

Recovery Capacity means hot water at the heater recovery rate minute after minute, hour after hour. If the hot water demand period is more than 3 or 4 hours, recovery capacity usually becomes more important than storage capacity.

Heater recovery capacity plus usable storage capacity must be sufficient to supply the amount of hot water consumed during the peak demand period.

**CAUTION:** Many tables refer only to gallons per hour recovery. Be certain that the heater will also meet your gallons per minute requirements.

**Storage Capacity and tank Efficiency**

The heater tank provides a source of instant hot water, over and above the heater recovery rate. However, the supply of hot water in the tank cannot be replenished until the recovery capacity of the heater exceeds the demand upon the system. This is usually after the peak hot water demand period has ended.

Tank size is usually more important than recovery capacity when large quantities of hot water are required in a short period of time...less than 3 or 4 hours.

All of the stored hot water is not available from the tank at the desired system temperature. This is because hot water is pushed from the system by entering cold water, resulting in temperature dilution of the water in storage.

The term usable storage is employed to indicate the quantity of water which must be available from the tank before dilution reduces temperature to an unusable level. Therefore, tank size should be increased by a percentage to cover the expected loss of hot water temperature so enough usable water will be available.

When a specific drop off characteristic for a system is unknown or tank efficiency is not given, 70% availability within a 30° F temperature drop during the demand period may be applied to the tank of a heater or system. For systems requiring precise delivered temperatures, figure 60% availability from the tank.

Obviously the actual availability and temperature drop of any system will depend upon the hot water demand flow rate and piping concept.

The potential for hot water temperature drop during the demand period must be kept in mind by the system designer when establishing the tank temperature. For example, while the hot water temperature guide, page 3, lists showers at 105°F, the system temperature is actually set for 140°F. A mixing valve would limit hot water temperature supplied to person use fixtures to 120°F. In this way the ability to handle a 30°F drop during the demand period is built into a design. The water temperature at the end of the demand would still be above that required by the use...about 110°F. Were the system temperature designed to 105°F, the tank size would have to be about half again as large because there would be no "extra" heat in the water to "stretch" the tank contents. The water temperature would also drop below that required by the use. So heating water above the needed temperature in systems employing tanks is common as it reduces tank size through the added heat energy available in the stored water.
A.O. Smith commercial tank type water heaters, hot water storage tanks and water heating systems using tanks have assigned tank efficiencies as follows:

**Gas and Oil-Fired Tank Type Heaters**

- Use 70% tank draw efficiency for all one and two temperature applications. For example, a gas fired Conservationist® BTH-150 model has an 100 gallon tank:

  100 x .70 = 70.0 usable gallons of hot water available within 30°F temperature drop during the demand period.

- Conversely, if 70.0 gallons of usable hot water were needed from the tank over the demand period, the minimum purchased tank size would be:

  \[ 70.0 \div .7 = 100 \text{ gallons} \]

**Note:** Storing water below 140°F may require more storage capacity.

- If the input of the heater is satisfactory for recovery purposes but the tank size is not, an auxiliary hot water storage tank may be piped into the system to increase the amount of available hot water during the demand period. A.O. Smith instruction manuals show the details.

**Gas Copper Heat Exchanger Type Heaters**

The copper type heater by itself does not provide storage of hot water as it is tankless. When connected to a tank, following A.O. Smith instruction manual details, the tank will deliver a percentage of hot water as follows:

- 70% for two temperature systems piped in Booster-Recovery and Shure-Temp Booster-Recovery fashion. Also 70% for one temperature systems not piped in Cer-Temp® 80 Fashion. Apply the 70% figure in the same manner as described for gas and oil-fired tank type heaters.

- 80% for one temperature recovery systems piped in Cer-Temp® 80 fashion. For example, a 1000 gallon hot water storage tank provides: 1000 x .80 = 800 usable gallons of hot water with about a 10°F temperature drop during the demand period. (Only 10°F temperature drop is experienced with Cer-Temp® 80 system design. This is because, once the pump and burner start to operate, incoming cold water is directed to the copper heater instead of the tank. The dilution of stored hot water by incoming cold water is significantly reduced.)

- Conversely, if 800 gallons of usable hot water were needed from the tank over the demand period, the minimum purchased tank size would be:

  \[ 800 \div .8 = 1000 \text{ gallons} \]

**Electric Tank Type Heaters**

- Use 70% tank draw efficiency for all two temperature applications. For example, a model DRE or DVE - 52 has a 52 gallon tank:

  \[ 52 \times .70 = 36.4 \text{ usable gallons of hot water available within 30°F temperature drop during the demand period.} \]

- Conversely, if 36.4 gallons of usable hot water were needed from the tank over the demand period, the minimum purchased tank size would be:

  \[ 36.4 \div .7 = 52 \text{ gallons} \]

- Use 80% tank draw efficiency for one temperature systems in the same manner as described for two temperature.

- As in the example of gas and oil-fired tank type heaters, and auxiliary tank can be used to supplement the heater capacity if necessary. However, it should be noted that A.O. Smith commercial electric water heaters are available in tank sizes to 10,000 gallons. Booster size heaters may also be connected to auxiliary tanks of any size. This would permit fuel conversion at a later date by heater substitution.
Auxiliary Tank (Unfired)

- As explained previously, auxiliary tanks are used to increase the hot water storage potential of gas and oil-fired an electric tank type heaters. Also, auxiliary tanks are used with gas copper heat exchanger type heaters in applications requiring stored hot water.

- Use 70% tank draw efficiency for all two temperature applications.

- Use 80% tank draw efficiency for all one temperature applications piped according to A. O. Smith instruction manuals.

Heater Recovery Plus Storage Tank Equals Demand

As previously explained, select maximum recovery and minimum storage if the hot water demand period is longer than 3 or 4 hours. Storage must be sufficient to handle any peaks within the demand period.

Select minimum recovery and maximum storage if the hot water demand period is less than 3 or 4 hours. Heater recovery must be sufficient to reheat the entire tank contents before the next demand period.

To summarize:

- “Short” Demand:
  - Min. recovery
  - Max. storage

- “Long” Demand:
  - Max. recovery
  - Min. storage

Check for the possibility of any hot water needs occurring during the recovery period which could affect the reheating of the system. Add heater recovery and/or storage tank capacity as necessary to handle unusual conditions.

Equipment sizing calculations may lead to a combination of heater recovery and storage tank which is not made. If so, both factors may be “adjusted” to favor one or the other as desired. Here’s how:

1. Where it is important that hot water temperature be maintained (as opposed to “within a 30°F drop” being o.k.) increase recovery capacity in preference to increasing tank size. This will aid in maintaining system temperature. Also, assume 10% less draw efficiency than if the 30°F drop was acceptable.

2. Where it is important to maintain water volume (for demands possibly in excess of heater recovery) increase tank size in order to provide “instant” hot water.

Heater Recovery and Storage Tank Performance Comparison

These examples demonstrate the roles that heater recovery and storage tank capacity play over a demand period. For example, a Model BTH-150 which has an 100 gallon tank, when used for a one or an eight hour demand provides:

One hour demand period

- 171 gph recovery
- +70 gal storage
- 241 gal/1 hour

Storage provides 30% of demand

Here’s how it’s figured:

Storage:

100 gallon tank
x 70% tank efficiency
= 70.0 usable gallons

171 gph recovery + 70.0 gallons storage = 241 gallons of hot water available for one hour.

Thereafter, until the tank is reheated, only the heater recovery of 171 gph is available. The heater tank obviously provides a good portion of the hot water in a short, intermittent demand period. Without any use of hot water during the recovery period the tank contents should be reheated within about 25 minutes (20 / 171 = .41)
Eight hour demand period, per hour capacity:

171 gph recovery
+ 8 gal storage
= 179 gal/8 hour

Recovery provides 96% of demand.

Here's how it's figured:

Storage:

100 gallon tank
x 70% tank efficiency
= 70 usable gallons over 8 hours

70.0 ÷ 8 = 7.8 or 8 usable gallons per hour

Thereafter, until the tank is reheated, only the heater recovery of 171 gph is available. The heater recovery obviously provides the hot water in a long, continuous demand period. Without any use of hot water during the recovery period the tank contents should be reheated within about 25 minutes (70.0 - 171 = .41 hour).

When Using Electricity To Heat Water

The system designer may want to modify the preceding heater recovery and storage tank capacity information when using electricity to heat water.

This is because electricity for commercial use, including water heating, is often sold on a demand rate basis. This means, in addition to the energy charge (measured in kwh), there is a charge for the demand (measured in kw) that a customer imposes upon the electrical service. Your power company will provide and explain rate information upon request.

KWH = ENERGY USED
(HEATS WATER, COSTS PENNIES)

KW = DEMAND
(DOESN'T HEAT WATER, COSTS DOLLARS)

The presence of a demand rate means the system designer should minimize recovery (heater kw rating) and maximize storage capacity (heater tank size.) Demand charges can greatly increase the cost of using electricity to heat water.

Another approach to minimize electric demand is to provide enough hot water storage to allow the elements to be turned off during periods of peak electrical usage. This may be done with a locally obtained time clock or through demand limiting equipment supplied by A. O. Smith or others in the energy control business. Working with the customer, power company, heater supplier and electrician can often result in significant power cost savings by providing control over the electrical demand.

Estimating Water Heating Costs

Occasionally the system designer may want to project energy expense and make fuel cost comparisons as a part of the system design project.

If so, use this formula and the example as a guide.

Cost = \[ \text{(Gallons per time period)} \times (8.25) \times (\text{temp. rise}) \times (\text{cost of fuel per sale unit}) \times (\text{Btu content of fuel per sale unit}) \times (\text{Heater efficiency}) \]
Cost example of heating 50 gallons of water with electricity:

\[
\text{Cost} = \frac{(50)(8.25)(100)(0.08)}{(3413)(1)}
\]

Notes:

- 8.25 - Weight of gallon of water
- 8.00¢ per kwh assumed
- 96 cents based on 100% efficiency, plus demand and fuel adjustment charges if applicable.
- 1 kw = 3413 Btu/h
- Efficiency = 1 (100%)

The A. O. Smith Commercial Water Heating Manual, Technical Data Section, CH-8100 and the A.O. Smith Acc-U-Size®, computerized sizing program contain extensive fuel cost comparison data. (available separately.)

IV. SYSTEM TYPES AND APPLICATION

**Design Objective**

The objectives in the design of commercial water heating systems are numerous and varied. The major considerations which the system designer should include in the planning stages are:

1. The heater and related system components and their installation must comply with all applicable codes and requirements.
   - ASME construction and NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) labelling are two examples of requirements which may have to be met.

2. Water heating system performance must promote the health, welfare and safety of the public.
   - Often times exact water temperatures over a long period of time are required in order to provide sanitation. This quality must be built into the system in the design stages.

3. Efficiently utilize energy to achieve the least possible operating costs.
   - Electricity is an example of a fuel which must be applied thoughtfully to avoid unnecessary demand charges.

4. Provide the quality and features needed to attain the desired results at least cost.
   - Least cost means not only initial cost but operating costs as well. Often times higher initial cost can be offset by lower operating costs achieved by using A. O. Smith energy-saving Conservationist® heater models.

**System Types**

Water heating systems may be divided into two basic types. The types depicted in A. O. Smith instruction manuals are either one temperature or two temperature systems. Of course the customer, through fixture adjustment, may obtain a variety of temperatures to serve their needs.

- One Temperature systems produce only one temperature of hot water to satisfy the demand.

- Two Temperature systems produce two temperatures of hot water and are usually associated with food service functions. The higher temperature water is used for dishwasher sanitizing rinse. Two temperatures may be produced by a single water heater with a mixing valve or by two water heaters set at two different temperatures or booster-recovery piping arrangements.

Within each division are numerous system names which should be understood and used by the system designer. It is important to correctly identify a system so the plumber and electrician will follow the proper instructions and diagrams. The following describes the system nomenclature used by A. O. Smith as it applies to the various types of heaters and fuels in use.
Tank type water heater systems using gas, oil and electricity.

One Temperature

1. One Temperature and booster are the names of one temperature water heating system.

   • One Temperature implies that the one temperature hot water produced in the heater is for general purpose use.

   • Traditionally, a Booster system receives hot water (usually at 140°F) and raises it to 180°F for use in the dishwasher final rinse. The Booster is therefore a one temperature water heating system. The tank type heater is the proper choice for a Booster system serving a stationary rack type dishwasher because of their intermittent use of 180°F final rinse water. A combination of heater recovery and storage tank capacity is the rule for a stationary rack type dishwasher.

   • One-temperature

   • Booster.

2. Two Temperature provides two temperature hot water service by means of a water mixing valve or through a pre-heater/booster heater combination. In the first concept the heater storage tank is maintained at the highest system temperature required (usually at 180°F) and the mixing valve externally produces the 140°F hot water requirement.

   The 180°F water in the tank is therefore piped to the water mixing valve for tempering and also sent directly to the dishwasher final rinse.

   The pre-heater/booster heater combination provides two temperatures of hot water without the use of a mixing valve. One heater is operated at 140°F to provide general purpose hot water and provide a source of pre-heated water for the booster heater. The booster heater raises the 140°F water to 180°F for the dishwasher final rinse. A benefit of this concept is that all of the stored hot water is not maintained at 180°F as when a mixing valve is used.

**CAUTION**

STORING WATER AT HIGHER THAN NECESSARY TEMPERATURES RESULTS IN MORE RAPID LIME BUILD UP, MORE CORROSIVE WATER, AND INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY OF CAUSING INJURY TO ANYONE COMING INTO CONTACT WITH THE HOT WATER.
Copper type water heater systems using gas.

One Temperature

1. Booster systems provide hot water at the desired temperature in the quantity needed for immediate use without storage. Water flows through the heater only once. The heater recovery rate must be sufficient to heat the volume of water required at the maximum temperature rise. Copper type Booster systems should only be used where demand is at a steady flow rate and temperature rise is constant. The fact that the cooper heater is tankless makes it ideal for this type of system.

Booster systems usually receive hot water at 140°F and raise it to 180°F for use in the dishwasher final rinse. The copper heater is a good choice for use with a Booster system serving conveyor type dishwashers which operate continuously during demand periods. Recovery capacity, not storage, is most important with a conveyor type dishwasher. Recovery must match demand to maintain temperature without drop off.

2. Cer-Temp® 80 Recovery Systems provide one temperature of hot water for the demand periods through a combination of heater recovery and storage capacity. Storage in this case means an auxiliary hot water storage tank connected to the cooper heater. (NOTE: To reduce damage to the water heater and service problems as a result of condensation, a recommendation is that the water heater(s) should be capable of recovering the tank capacity in less than 3 hours.

Cer-Temp® 80 Recovery Systems offer the designer an opportunity to obtain 10% more usable hot water from storage, with less temperature drop, than previous piping arrangements. Traditionally piped, a recovery system delivers about 70% of the stored hot water within a 30°F temperature drop. By routing the incoming cold water through the cooper heater (once the pump and burner are in operation) the dilution of stored hot water by incoming cold water is reduced. This results in an 80% usable hot water draw from storage with about a 10°F temperature drop, hence the name Cer-Temp® 80.

Two Temperature

Shure-Temp Booster-Recovery assures, as its name suggests, 180°F rinse water temperature at the dishwasher. In keeping with NSF guidelines, the water is pump recirculated with adequate controls for adjustment and safety.

The Shure-Temp Booster-Recovery system may be used when the heater and dishwasher are within 5' to 300' of each other.
Creating the Successful System

Creating the successful commercial water heating system is a joint venture involving many persons and skills.

In order to select the right system using either tank type or copper type heaters, one should understand the role that each of the persons concerned with the installation plays.

The following chart summarizes the responsibilities for each of the roles.

Remember, your customer’s success or profit may depend upon the continued availability of hot water . . . and you will achieve that goal through proper system selection and sizing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDENTITY</th>
<th>RESPONSIBILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Customer</td>
<td>Must define his needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System designer*</td>
<td>Designs a water heating system to satisfy the customer’s needs. Acts as an interface between all involved parties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Heater Supplier and/or Manufacturer</td>
<td>Furnishes the equipment to meet the system specifications. May aid the designer in equipment selection or specifications with his knowledge of product performance and availability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing and Electrical Installation Contractors</td>
<td>Must understand system concept to provide installation, startup and customer instruction. Also provide maintenance and service for continued satisfaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Supplier</td>
<td>Advises characteristics of energy available at job site and how to achieve best use. Particularly important when electricity is the fuel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Supplier</td>
<td>Advises characteristics of water, lowest temperature, maximum pressure and hardness. May influence heater selection and use of a pressure reducing valve.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The system designer may be the architect, engineer, installing contractor or water heater supplier.

V. Sizing to Customer Requirements

Using Prepared Information

Using the Acc-U-Size® computer sizing or the A.O. Smith Commercial Water Heating manual CH-8100 are the easiest ways to develop a system. This is because the information combines probable hot water demand with system type and gas, oil or electric heater recommendations. Excerpts from the sizing section of the manual are presented here to acquaint the reader with its versatility.

Whenever the system designer has the choice of more than one combination of recovery and storage in a given application the choices could be evaluated as follows:

1. Initial cost of equipment.
   • Generally, in the case of copper type water heating systems, maximum heater recovery with minimum storage tank size is the least costly selection.
2. Space available for equipment.
   - Carefully check dimensional data on specification sheets against those of installation site.
3. Availability and cost of energy.
   - Some businesses may have a restriction on the amount of gas they can obtain for all purposes. This could restrict heater recovery and increase storage capacity. Due to the demand rate manner in which many electric utilities sell energy, minimum recovery and maximum tank may be the best approach. Review “Using Electricity to Heat Water” on page 10.

Following the excerpts are two fundamental approaches a system designer may use to select a commercial water heater for one and two temperature systems. This information may be used when tabulated sizing information is not available for the application. The procedures also demonstrate the manner in which the sizing section information is developed for field use.

One Temperature System

Multiple dwelling sizing tables include data for apartments, motels and hotels, and dormitories. The design function is accomplished in two steps. First, the hot water requirement and minimum storage tank capacity is determined for the application. Second, the appropriate “Availability Table Gallons” is checked to establish heater and tank size. This example is for apartments. Consultation with the operator is necessary to point out:

1. The hot water requirement will be used for the shower load and other minor uses such as lavatories and residential dishwashers. The introduction to “Apartments” states that hot water for clothes washers is not included. Additional recovery and storage or another system must be added if a laundry room is to be served.

2. The total shower flow of hot and cold water is calculated at 3 gpm per shower head . . . Unless each shower head is flow controlled to this amount the water consumption could be higher than planned and the system become inadequate. Be certain this is understood by all involved.

3. The job can be figured on the basis of apartments (column 1) or actual number of persons (column 2). Ask the operator which they think will best reflect their operating conditions. Remember, people not fixtures, use water.

1. **ESTABLISH THE MAXIMUM OCCUPANCY FROM COLUMNS 1 OR 2**

   ![A.O. Smith Table]

   **NOTE**
   - **HOT WATER REQUIREMENTS APARTMENTS**

   **TABLE A**
   - **THREE HOUR PEAK PERIOD**
   - **USE WITH TABLES 3 A THRU 3 A, 152.

   **APARTMENTS**

   This table has been prepared to serve as a guide for estimating the Three Hour hot water demand for various sized apartment buildings. Minimum Storage capacity is also shown. The table assumes an average occupancy of 2.12 persons per apartment and 5 minutes shower time.

   **NOTE:** Estimated Three Hour demands shown include shower load and other minor uses such as lavatories and residential dishwashers. Other major hot water consuming appliances such as clothes washers will increase the total demand. Consult manufacturer specifications for hot water consumption and increase probable storage capacity accordingly.

   **IMPORTANT:** If apartment building houses students, use sizing chart on page 517 in HOT WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR DORMS, if the majority of apartment residents need to be somewhere in the morning working couple, families with school aged children etc. use the information below and select products from the Two Hour Availability Tables.

   **TABLE A:**
   - **HOT WATER REQUIREMENTS - APARTMENT BUILDINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of</td>
<td>Actual No.</td>
<td>Gals Required 3 HR (12° F Water)</td>
<td>Storage Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartments (2 1/2 Persons)</td>
<td>of Persons</td>
<td>7 GPM Showers HD Flow</td>
<td>7 GPM Showers TD Flow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **ESTABLISHED GALLONS REQUIRED DURING DEMAND PERIOD**

3. **ESTABLISHED THE MINIMUM PURCHASED TANK SIZE**
**Two Temperature Systems**

This example is for gas copper heat exchanger type heaters combined with hot water storage tanks into two temperature systems for food service use. The system designer need only establish the maximum number of meals which could be served and the length of the dishwashing period. This is done through consultation with the customer. The equipment and system selections are then evaluated as previously described.

1. **ESTABLISH THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MEALS WHICH COULD BE SERVED**

2. **ESTABLISH THE LENGTH OF THE DISHWASHING PERIOD**

3. **EQUIPMENT SELECTION RECOMMENDATIONS**
Sizing Without Prepared Information

The following procedures will establish heater recovery and storage tank capacities for intermittent use systems. The procedures are intended for use when A.O. Smith tabulated sizing information is not applicable.

Continuous use systems are sized so that heater recovery equals or exceeds demand. Therefore the size of the tank (when proposing a tank type heater system) is unimportant. If a fixed input copper type heater is placed into continuous use a tank may not be necessary unless the water flow rate and temperature rise is varied. An 80 gallon tank with pump and control is used when these variations are expected. The water in the tank will absorb excess recovery created by a lower flow rate or lesser temperature rise.

The procedures for one and two temperature systems are essentially the same:

1. Establish the hourly 1/hot water demand in gallons and the maximum temperature rise.

2. Select a trial size heater 2/.

3. Subtract the hourly heater recovery from the demand.

4. The difference in gallons between demand and recovery must come from the tank.

5. Multiply the difference by the number of demand hours. The result is the “usable” number of gallons which must come from the tank.

6. Divide the “usable” tank gallons by .7 or .8 to obtain minimum tank size needed, see pages 7 thru 10.

7. Compare minimum calculated tank size with that of the “trial size” heater. If the heater tank is equal to or greater than calculated tank size the selection is satisfactory. If not, adjust recovery and storage as necessary, see page 10.

8. Divide the heater tank size by the heater recovery to be certain the tank will be recovered by the time of the next demand. If not, adjust recovery and storage as necessary, see page 10.

1*/ The demand could be in minutes or seconds. In either case all references to hours in the procedure would revert to minutes or seconds. For example, a stationary rack type dishwasher may have a 12 second demand period and an 83 second recovery period.

2*/Review PROFILES OF OPERATION, Page 5, as an aid in determining whether to favor recovery or tank capacity in the selection of a “trial size” heater. Normally the hourly heater recovery of the heater selected should not exceed the hourly demand. In this way the hot water content of the tank will be put to use.

One temperature example

1. A two hour demand of 206 gph of 140°F water has been established. The lowest incoming water temperature is 40°F. The shortest time in any day in which the demand will be repeated is 8 hours.

2. An A.O Smith Cyclone gas-fired tank type commercial water heater will be selected for the job. (Any fuel or type of heater could be substituted in this example.)

“Try” a Model BTH-150. This heater has 171 gallons per hour recovery at 100°F water temperature rise and an 100 gallon tank.
3. Needed: 206 gph for 2 hours

Subtract: -171 gph heater recovery at 100°F rise

Equals: 35 gallons needed from tank, first hour

Multiplied by: × 2 demand hours

Equals: 70 usable gallons needed from tank

Divide: 70 ÷ .7 = 100. gallons minimum tank size

Capacity 100 gallon tank vs. 100. gallon tank minimum

Compare tank size vs. recovery:

Used 70 gallon. 8 hours is available to recover tank.
(70 ÷ 171 gph recovery = .41, .41 X 60 minutes = 24.6 minutes needed to recover 70 gallons.

Conclusion: The Model BTH-150 will do the job and should be the heater selected.

⚠️ CAUTION: A two hour demand of 206 gph means that the 206 gph is spread throughout the entire hour. It does not mean that 206 gallons is dumped in 15 minutes and no additional hot is used in the remaining 45 minutes.

Two temperature example

1. A one hour demand of 75 gallons of 180°F water and 110 gallons of 140°F water has been established. The lowest incoming water temperature is 40°F. The shortest time in any day in which the demand will be repeated is 3 hours.

2. Convert the 180°F water requirement into the equivalent of a 140°F water requirement to avoid working with two different temperature rises.

Converting to a single temperature rise:

• Multiply the 180°F requirement by 1.4 in 100°F temperature rise applications.

  a) This means 1.4 more water can be raised from 40°F to 140°F than 40°F to 180°F with the same amount of energy.

  b) Multiplier formula:

     \[
     \text{Hot - Cold} \quad = \quad \text{multiplier}
     \]

     \[
     \text{Mixed - Cold}
     \]

     Example:

     \[
     \frac{180 - 40}{140 - 40} = \frac{140}{100} = 1.4
     \]

     c) 75 gallons 180°F water required

     \[
     \times 1.4
     \]

     105 equivalent gallons of 140°F water

• Add the converted 180°F water requirement to the 140°F requirement and proceed with heater selection.

  a) 105 + 110 gallons of 140°F water = 215 equivalent gallons of hot water required at 100°F water temperature rise.

3. An A.O. Smith electric tank type commercial water heater will be selected for the job. (Any fuel or type of heater could be substituted in this example.

   Review SYSTEM TYPES AND APPLICATION beginning on page 11.
"Try" a DVE-120 with 24 kw input. This heater has 98 gallons per hour recovery at 100°F water temperature rise and a 119 gallon tank. The heater will be operated at 180°F and equipped with a water mixing valve set at 140°F.

4. Needed: 215 gallons for one hour
Subtract: -98 gph heater recovery at 100°F
___rise
Equals 117 usable gallons needed from tank

Compare tank capacity: 119 gallon tank vs. 117 gallon tank minimum

NOTE: The 119 gallon tank capacity at 70% tank efficiency is equal to 83 gallons of usable hot water. However, it is 83 gallons of 180°F water and therefore has the heat content equivalent of 83 x 1.4 = 116 gallons of 140°F water. Therefore the tank size is adequate (only 1 gallon short).

Compare tank size vs recovery: 1.21 hours vs 3 hours available.
(119 : 98 = 1.21 hour)

Conclusion: The model DVE-120 with 24 kw input will do the job and should be the heater selected.

Field Assistance

Please contact your local A. O. Smith distributor, sales representative or the technical information center (See: www.hotwater.com for phone and fax numbers) if you need help designing a water heating system or selecting the proper equipment for the job.

> Acc-U-Size 4.0 Sizing Software

A.O. Smith. The leader in Commercial Water Heaters and Boilers now offers their new Acc-U-Size 4.0 sizing software.