



NB Power's water heater rentals provide you with a reliable and energy-efficient way to enjoy hot water whenever you need it.

Safety at 60°C - The required temperature for safe, reliable hot water.

## 60°C WHY DO I NEED TO KEEP IT AT 60°C?

The National Plumbing Code, CSA and the World Health Organization have set a mandate that water heaters used in Canada come factory set at 60°C (140°F) to reduce the risk of bacterial growth and potentially legionella in electric water heaters.



## WHAT IS LEGIONELLA?

Legionella is a form of bacteria that can lead to Legionellosis disease. Legionella bacteria grow in water and can cause two types of illness in humans- Pontiac fever and Legionnaires' disease.

- **LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE** is a serious illness. It's characterized by a lung infection (pneumonia), which can be quite severe and result in hospitalization.
- **PONTIAC FEVER** is the milder form that is characterized by symptoms that resemble the flu.

## WHAT TEMPERATURE DOES LEGIONELLA THRIVE IN?

Optimal growth of legionella bacteria occurs at temperatures between 20°C (68°F) and 50°C (122°F).



For more information on the cause and prevention of Legionnaires' disease visit the World Health Organization at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

## WHO'S AT RISK?

Although the risk of getting Legionnaires' disease is generally quite low, anyone exposed to the bacteria can become infected. Individuals with weakened immune systems, certain chronic diseases, smokers, elderly and individuals working with certain water systems are at greater risk of developing the disease.

## HOW CAN I REDUCE MY RISK?

- ✓ Safety at 60°C - The required temperature for safe, reliable hot water.
- ✓ Regular cleaning, disinfection and maintenance of mist producing devices like showerheads, humidifiers and hot tubs will also reduce your risk.
- ✓ Use distilled water in respiratory therapy devices and clean regularly, especially when used with children, the elderly and people with medical conditions.

**NB POWER'S TOP PRIORITY IS YOUR SAFETY; PLEASE KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE.**

For more information, call us at **1 800 663-6272** or visit us online at **NBPOWER.COM**

## WATER HEATER SAFETY TIPS:

- ✓ Some publications may encourage home owners to reduce the temperature of water heaters in order to conserve energy. We don't support this as it creates a safety risk to you and your family and reduces your hot water output capacity. The minimal savings are not worth the risk to your family.
- ✓ For your safety, NB Power prohibits tampering of the temperature setting of their water heaters. If you have reason to believe the temperature is below 60°C (140°F) please contact us at **1 800 663-6272**.
- ✓ With your water heater's thermostats pre-set at 60°C (140°F), burns can occur within seconds. Scalding is a serious concern when using hot water, especially for children, the elderly and people with medical conditions. If you need to reduce the water's temperature at the point of use, please contact a licensed plumber to discuss options such as mixing valves or tempering devices.

