

HOT WATER SAFETY

EACH YEAR, APPROXIMATELY 3,800 INJURIES AND 34 DEATHS OCCUR IN HOMES IN THE UNITED STATES DUE TO SCALDING FROM EXCESSIVELY HOT TAPWATER. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE INJURED ARE THE ELDERLY AND CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5.

IN MANY INSTANCES, THE HOT WATER HEATING SYSTEM HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE HOT WATER AT TEMPERATURES IN EXCESS OF 120°F. IT IS NOT JUST THE TEMPERATURE OF THE HOT WATER THAT IS IMPORTANT, BUT ALSO THE TIME-TEMPERATURE RELATIONSHIP.

IT ONLY TAKES ONE SECOND AT 155°F TO RECEIVE THIRD DEGREE BURNS!



TIPS TO AVOID SCALD INJURIES

- ◆ SET YOUR WATER HEATER THERMOSTAT TO 120°F OR BELOW.
- ◆ CONSIDER INSTALLING WATER FAUCETS AND SHOWERHEADS CONTAINING ANTI-SCALD TECHNOLOGY.
- ◆ NEVER LEAVE A CHILD ALONE, ESPECIALLY IN THE BATHROOM OR KITCHEN. IF YOU MUST LEAVE THE ROOM, TAKE THE CHILD WITH YOU.
- ◆ WHEN FILLING A BATHTUB FOR A CHILD'S BATH, FIRST TURN ON THE COLD WATER, THEN ADD HOT WATER. WHEN THE TUB IS ALMOST FILLED, TURN OFF THE HOT WATER. THEN TURN OFF THE COLD WATER. CHECK THE WATER WITH YOUR HAND BEFORE PUTTING YOUR CHILD IN THE BATHTUB.
- ◆ NEVER PUT YOUR CHILD IN THE BATHTUB WHILE THE WATER IS RUNNING.

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