

# Ao Smith Gas Water Heater Manual

## Installation Instructions and Use & Care Guide



## Residential Electric Water Heater

### DO NOT RETURN THIS UNIT TO THE STORE



Read this manual and the labels on the water heater before you install, operate, or service it. If you have difficulty following the directions, or aren't sure you can safely and properly do any of this work yourself:

- Call our Technical Assistance Hotline at 1-877-817-6750 or visit <http://www.AOSmithAtLowes.com>. We can help you with installation, operations, troubleshooting, or maintenance. Before you call, write down the model and serial number from the water heater's data plate.

Incorrect installation, operation, or service can damage the water heater, your house and other property, and present risks including fire, scalding, electric shock, and explosion, causing serious injury or death.



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Keep this manual in the pocket on heater for future reference whenever maintenance, adjustment or service is required.

Retain your original receipt as proof of purchase.

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**ao smith gas water heater manual** is an essential resource for homeowners and professionals who own or service AO Smith gas water heaters. Understanding how to operate, maintain, and troubleshoot these water heaters can greatly extend their lifespan and efficiency. In this article, we will explore the essential components of the AO Smith gas water heater manual, including installation instructions, maintenance tips, troubleshooting advice, and safety precautions.

## Understanding AO Smith Gas Water Heaters

AO Smith is a reputable brand known for producing high-quality water heating solutions. Their gas water heaters are popular for residential and commercial use due to their reliability and efficiency. Familiarizing yourself with the gas water heater manual is crucial for ensuring optimal performance and safety.

# Key Components of the AO Smith Gas Water Heater Manual

The AO Smith gas water heater manual covers various aspects of the water heater, making it an indispensable guide for users. Here are some key components you can expect to find:

- **Installation Instructions:** Detailed steps on how to install your gas water heater correctly.
- **Operating Guidelines:** Information on how to use the water heater effectively and efficiently.
- **Maintenance Tips:** Guidelines for routine upkeep to ensure longevity and performance.
- **Troubleshooting Guide:** Common issues and solutions to help users diagnose and fix problems.
- **Safety Precautions:** Essential safety tips to prevent accidents and ensure safe operation.

## Installation Instructions

Installing an AO Smith gas water heater requires careful adherence to the guidelines outlined in the manual. Here are the essential steps you should follow:

### 1. Preparation

Before beginning the installation process, ensure you have the following tools and materials:

- Adjustable wrench
- Pipe wrench
- Level
- Safety goggles
- Gas line fittings
- Teflon tape

## 2. Location Selection

Choose a suitable location for your water heater. It should be:

- Near a gas line and a power source.
- In a well-ventilated area.
- Accessible for maintenance and repairs.

## 3. Installation Steps

Follow these steps to install your AO Smith gas water heater:

1. Turn off the gas supply and water supply to the existing heater.
2. Remove the old water heater if applicable.
3. Position the new water heater in the selected location.
4. Connect the cold water supply line to the inlet and the hot water supply line to the outlet.
5. Attach the gas line using appropriate fittings and Teflon tape.
6. Ensure the venting system is installed according to local codes.
7. Turn on the water supply and check for leaks.
8. Follow the ignition instructions in the manual to start the heater.

## Operating Guidelines

Once your AO Smith gas water heater is installed, it's essential to operate it correctly to maximize its efficiency and lifespan.

## Temperature Settings

The recommended temperature setting for your water heater is typically around 120°F (49°C). This temperature is safe and helps save energy. To adjust the temperature:

1. Locate the thermostat on your water heater.
2. Use a flathead screwdriver to adjust the temperature setting.
3. Wait a few hours for the water to reach the new temperature before checking.

## **Using the Water Heater**

To effectively use your AO Smith gas water heater:

- Run hot water taps gradually to avoid sudden temperature changes.
- Be mindful of peak usage times to ensure sufficient hot water supply.
- Regularly check the pressure relief valve to ensure it operates correctly.

## **Maintenance Tips**

Regular maintenance is vital for prolonging the life of your gas water heater. Here are some maintenance tips to follow:

### **1. Flushing the Tank**

Flushing your water heater at least once a year helps remove sediment buildup:

1. Turn off the gas supply and water supply to the heater.
2. Connect a garden hose to the drain valve at the bottom of the tank.
3. Open the drain valve and let the water flow out until it runs clear.
4. Close the drain valve and refill the tank before turning the gas supply back on.

### **2. Inspecting the Anode Rod**

The anode rod helps prevent corrosion inside the tank:

- Check the anode rod every 2-3 years.
- If it's heavily corroded, replace it to prolong the life of your tank.

### **3. Checking the Venting System**

Regularly inspect the venting system for blockages or leaks:

- Ensure that vents are clear of debris.
- Check for any signs of rust or damage.

## **Troubleshooting Common Issues**

Even with proper maintenance, issues may arise. Here are some common problems and their solutions:

### **1. No Hot Water**

If you find that your water heater isn't producing hot water:

- Check if the gas supply is turned on.
- Inspect the pilot light; if it's out, follow the relighting instructions in the manual.
- Ensure the thermostat is set correctly.

### **2. Water is Too Hot**

If the water temperature is excessively high:

- Check the thermostat setting; it may need adjustment.

- Inspect the temperature and pressure relief valve for proper function.

## Safety Precautions

Safety is paramount when operating a gas water heater. Here are some essential precautions to take:

- Ensure proper ventilation to prevent gas buildup.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector near the water heater.
- Regularly check for gas leaks by smelling for gas or using soapy water on connections.

## Conclusion

The **ao smith gas water heater manual** is a vital document that provides comprehensive guidance on installation, operation, maintenance, troubleshooting, and safety. By following the instructions and tips outlined in this article, you can ensure that your gas water heater functions efficiently and safely for years to come. Always refer to the specific manual for your model for detailed and model-specific information. Regular maintenance and vigilance can help you avoid common problems and extend the life of your water heater, ensuring you have a reliable source of hot water whenever you need it.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Where can I find the A.O. Smith gas water heater manual?

You can find the A.O. Smith gas water heater manual on the official A.O. Smith website under the 'Support' or 'Manuals' section. You can also check the product packaging or contact customer service for assistance.

### What are the common troubleshooting steps for an A.O. Smith gas water heater?

Common troubleshooting steps include checking the gas supply, ensuring the pilot light is lit, inspecting the thermostat settings, and looking for any error codes displayed on the unit. Refer to the manual for specific troubleshooting guidance.

## **How do I perform maintenance on my A.O. Smith gas water heater?**

Maintenance for your A.O. Smith gas water heater includes flushing the tank to remove sediment buildup, checking the anode rod, inspecting gas connections for leaks, and testing the pressure relief valve. Detailed steps can be found in the manual.

## **What should I do if my A.O. Smith gas water heater is not heating water?**

If your A.O. Smith gas water heater is not heating water, first check if the gas supply is turned on and the pilot light is lit. If these are fine, inspect the thermostat settings and consult the manual for additional troubleshooting steps.

## **How often should I replace the anode rod in my A.O. Smith gas water heater?**

The anode rod in your A.O. Smith gas water heater should typically be replaced every 3 to 5 years, depending on water quality and usage. Refer to your manual for specific recommendations based on your model.

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