

How to Determine Water Heater Age

Water Heaters:

SECOND LETTER – MONTH OF MANUFACTURE

A = January, **B** = February, **C** = March, **D** = April, **E** = May, **F** = June, **G** = July, **H** = August,
J = September, **K** = October, **L** = November, **M** = December

(Most manufactures that use letters follow this letter to month pattern)

Ambassador – See State

American- 1st two digits equal the year, next two the week.

ACE – See American or State

AO Smith- Can be confusing; digits may be comprised of letters & numbers. May be one, two, or no letters.

If two letters first, next two numbers are year.

If one letter first, followed by two numbers and another letter, next two numbers are year.

If one letter first, next two numbers are year, providing no letter follows.

If two numbers first, this is year.

Typically the 2nd letter (sometimes first i.e. Kenmore and GSW) equals the month and the next two digits are the year.

Apollo – See AO Smith

AquaTemp – See American

AquaTherm- See American

Best –See American

Bosch - The first three digits of the serial number indicate the production date

| Month \ Year | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| January | 861 | 961 | 081 | 181 | 281 | 381 | 481 | 581 | 681 | 781 | 881 | 981 |
| February | 862 | 962 | 082 | 182 | 282 | 382 | 482 | 582 | 682 | 782 | 882 | 982 |
| March | 863 | 963 | 083 | 183 | 283 | 383 | 483 | 583 | 683 | 783 | 883 | 983 |
| April | 864 | 964 | 084 | 184 | 284 | 384 | 484 | 584 | 684 | 784 | 884 | 984 |
| May | 865 | 965 | 085 | 185 | 285 | 385 | 485 | 585 | 685 | 785 | 885 | 985 |
| June | 866 | 966 | 086 | 186 | 286 | 386 | 486 | 586 | 686 | 786 | 886 | 986 |
| July | 867 | 967 | 087 | 187 | 287 | 387 | 487 | 587 | 687 | 787 | 887 | 987 |
| August | 868 | 968 | 088 | 188 | 288 | 388 | 488 | 588 | 688 | 788 | 888 | 988 |
| September | 869 | 969 | 089 | 189 | 289 | 389 | 489 | 589 | 689 | 789 | 889 | 989 |
| October | 870 | 970 | 090 | 190 | 290 | 390 | 490 | 590 | 690 | 790 | 890 | 990 |
| November | 871 | 971 | 091 | 191 | 291 | 391 | 491 | 591 | 691 | 791 | 891 | 991 |
| December | 872 | 972 | 092 | 192 | 292 | 392 | 492 | 592 | 692 | 792 | 892 | 992 |

Bradford-White- 1st letter in the S/N is the year of manufacturer with A being 1964, 1984 or 2004 (They use a 20 year cycle) They skip the letters I, O, Q, R, U, V to make the full cycle. The second letter is the month A=January through M = December (I is left out)

FIRST LETTER – YEAR OF MANUFACTURE

A = 2004 F = 1989 L = 1994 T = 1999

B = 2005 G = 1990 M = 1995 W = 2000

C = 1986 H = 1991 N = 1996 X = 2001

D = 1987 J = 1992 P = 1997 Y = 2002

E = 1988 K = 1993 S = 1998 Z = 2003

C=2006 D=2007: E=2008 F = 2009

Cafos – Japanese brand of water heater

How to Determine Water Heater Age

Champion – See American

Craftmaster – See American

Crosley: (yes they are still making them) See Reliance or State

Energy saver – See Bradford White

Envirotemp – See American

GE-1st two digits equal the month, next to the year. (mfg by Rheem)

Glascote –See AO Smith

Golden Knight – See Bradford White

GSW – See AO Smith

Hotpoint – see GE?

JC Penney – See State

Jetglas – See Bradford White

JW or John Wood – See AO Smith

Kenmore: See State, was AO Smith at one time

Lochinvar – See Bradford White

Lowes – See Rheem

Mainstream – unknown at this time

Maytag – See AO Smith

Montgomery Ward – See Rheem

Mor-Flo - American

Knight – See Lochnivar

PermaGlas – See AO Smith

Reliance – See State

Revere – See American

Rheem/Rudd/Richmond- 1st two digits equal the month, next to the year. Rheem Manufacturing is owned by Japanese water heater manufacturer Paloma

Rinnai - Rinnai America Corp <http://www.foreverhotwater.com/index.php>. The manufacturing date code is the first four digits of the serial number, written as YYMM,

Security – See US Water Heater

Shamrock – See American

Standard – See American

State/Reliance/Sears- Letter that equals the month followed by the year. (made by AO Smith)

Takagi - ?

Thermo-King – See State Industries

Vanguard – See Rheem

US Craftmaster – See American

US Water Heater - ????

Whirlpool - See American

The only real manufactures of water heaters anymore are American, AO Smith, Bradford White, and Rheem. It is rumored that we are now getting Japanese and Chinese water heaters in the market (3/08)

How to Determine Water Heater Age

Water Heater Brand Manufactures

Brand Name --- Manufacturer

A.O. Smith --- A.O.Smith
ABS --- Rheem
Ace --- State
Ace --- American
Ambassador --- State
American --- American
American Hardware --- American
Apex -- American
Aqua Temp --- American
Aqua Therm -- Rheem
Aqua Therm --- American
Aquamatic --- American
Barnett --- State
Best --- American
Best Deluxe --- American
Bradford White --- Bradford-White
Century --- State
Champion --- American
Cimarrom --- Rheem
Citation --- Rheem
Coast to coast --- Rheem
Craftmaster --- American
Crosley --- State
De-Limier --- American
Deluxe --- American
Eagle --- American
Earl's Energy Saver --- American
Energy Master --- Rheem
Energy Saver --- Lochinvar
Energy Stretcher --- State
Environtemp --- American
Four Most --- American
Freedom --- State
Freedome/Nipsco --- State
General Electric --- Rheem
Glascote --- A.O.Smith
Golden Knight --- Lochinvar
Hardware House --- State
Hotmaster --- American
Hotstream --- American
Intertherm & miller --- Rheem
Jetglas --- Bradford-White
King-Cleen --- American
King-Line --- American
Knight --- Lochinvar
Lochinvar --- Lochinvar
Lowe's --- Rheem
Mainstream --- Rheem
Master Plumber --- American
Master plumber/True5 --- State
Mission --- State
Montgomery Ward --- Rheem
Mor-Flo/American --- American
Nationaline ? --- American or State
Neptune --- American
Patriot --- State
Penfield --- State
Penguin --- American
PermaGlas --- A.O.Smith

How to Determine Water Heater Age

Praline --- American
Praline-Plus --- American
President --- State
Prestige --- American
Professional --- Rheem
Pro Line --- American
Quaker --- American
Quick-Flo -- American
Raywall --- American
Regency--- State
Reliance --- State
Revere --- American
Rheem --- Rheem
Rheem/Ruud --- Rheem
Richmond --- Rheem
Riviera --- American
Ruud --- Rheem
U.S. Craftmaster --- American
SABH (US) --- American
Sands --- American
Sentinel --- American
Service-Star --- American
Servi-Star --- Rheem
Shamrock --- American
Special Deluxe --- American
Standard --- American
State/Kenmore --- State
Super Eagle --- American
Sure-Fire --- American
The Plumbery --- State
Thermo-King --- State
Thoro-clean --- American
TopLine --- State
Tru Value --- American
True Value --- Rheem
Tru-Test --- American
U.S. Supply --- American
Vanguard --- Rheem
Vista Therm --- Rheem
Whirlpool --- American
XCL-Energy Saver --- America

Updated 4/19/2007

Updated 6/18/2007
Updated 07/20/2007
Updated 7/31/2007
Updated 8/1/2007
Updated 8/9/2007
Updated 9/20/2007
Updated 9/25/2007
Updated 10/15/2007
Updated 11/27/2007
Updated 11/29/2007
Updated 12/6/2007
Updated 3/14/2008
Updated 4/22/2008
Updated 5/27/2008
Updated 9/14/2008

How to Determine Water Heater Age

Updated 10/17/2008

Updated 1/6/2009

Updated 1/23/2009

Updated 2/12/2009

Updated 5/5/2010

Scott C. LeMarr has provided his file of keys to decode Water Heater Age from the data provided on the manufacturer's equipment labels. Mr. LeMarr is a professional home inspector, Certified Professional Inspector/President, MASTER Indoor Environmental Specialist (MIES). Vice President of Wisconsin NACHI. He and his company, Honest Home Inspections, LLC. can be reached at 262-424-5587 or by email to scott@honesthomeinspections.com