

# 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

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**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)

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## 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

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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