



Electric Water Heater Installation Inspection Checklist

This checklist is a guide and does not include all code requirements.

Mechanical Requirements:

- If in garage, the water heater ignition source must be not less than 18 inches above the floor.
Exception: If water heater is rated/listed as Flammable-Vapor-Ignition resistant. IRC M1307.3
- If in garage, water heater which is in direct route of an automobile shall have impact protection. (Pipe bollards or curb stops to prevent vehicle impact into the appliance.) IRC M1307.3.1
- When a check valve/backflow preventer is installed after the water meter, a thermal expansion tank is required on the cold water feed pipe rated for the appliance(s) served. IRC M2003
- Water heater drain pan required if located where leaking will cause damage. IRC P2801.6
 - Galvanized steel, aluminum or other approved materials. Unlisted plastic pans are prohibited for gas water heater installations. IRC P2801.6
 - Drain pan termination to indirect waste or to the exterior. IRC P2801.6.2
- Temperature-pressure relief valve drain discharge shall be constructed of materials approved for water distribution as listed in IRC Table P2906.5. IRC 2804.6.1(13)
 - PEX discharge piping to be one size larger than outlet per IRC P2804.6.1(14)
- T/P relief valve pipe shall discharge a maximum of 6 inches above floor. IRC P2804.6.1(10)
- Bottom fed tank-type water heaters are to be equipped with a vacuum-relief valve. IRC P2804.7
- Full-size open valve required on cold water side supply line to the water heater. IRC P2903.9.2

Electrical Requirements:

- White wires used as current carrying conductors shall be identified at the water heater and electric panel (mark with black or red tape). IRC E3407
- Conductors and equipment ground must be correctly sized in accordance with listing label on the water heater. Fixed water heaters considered a continuous load. IRC E3702.10
- NM cable (Romex) may not be installed where subject to physical damage on concrete or block walls. Conduit, MC cable must be used or NM cable / Romex on wood lath. IRC E3802
- Disconnect required if electrical panel not within sight of water heater. IRC E4101.5