

Hot Water Temperature Requirements

There are multiple hot water requirements in a daycare, so it's important to be aware of these before a new construction or major remodel.

37.95.206 LAUNDRY

(1) In order to ensure that soiled laundry does not endanger the health of children, a day care center must:

(c) machine wash all laundry at a minimum initial water temperature of **140EF** and a minimum time of eight minutes, and dry all laundry in a hot air tumble dryer vented to the outside of the building

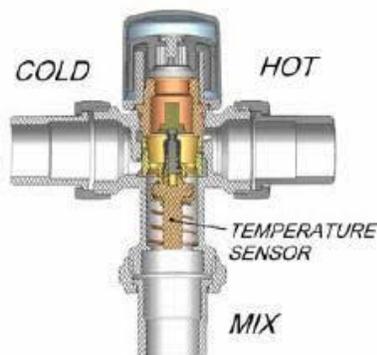
37.95.207 GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING

(1) As general housekeeping measures, a day care center must ensure that:

(g) hand sinks and bathing facilities are provided with water at a temperature of at least **100EF** and not more than **120EF**



Day Care Facilities can use traditional hot water heaters or on-demand systems. Your system should be sized based on the daily number of children and staff and should be able to



consistently provide hot water throughout the day. You can have multiple hot water heaters and set each one to the appropriate temperature based on what it supplies. You can also use thermostatic mixing valves. Thermostatic mixing valves allow you to adjust the hot water supply temperature at the point-of-source (i.e. hot water heater) or at the point-of-use (i.e. handwashing sinks, 3-compartment sink, or washing machine). If you are constructing a new facility, you will want to talk with a licensed plumber about the best options for your facility. If you already have a facility but struggle to meet temperature requirements, mixing valves may be a good option.

Another option is to buy a washing machine with a sanitize cycle. Many new washers, dryers, and dishwashing machines come with a sanitize cycle. They are supplied with hot water boosters or heating systems capable of reaching temperatures necessary to sanitize clothes or dishware. In order to have a certified sanitize cycle, companies must meet specific standards. NSF protocol P172 is used to evaluate washers and dryers. Washers and dryers must be able to reduce microorganism 99.9% during the sanitize cycle to be certified. This is achieved through a combination of time and temperature. You can check for NSF certified washers and dryers at the NSF Website: <http://info.nsf.org/Certified/Protocols/>.



By using one or more of these options, you should be able to meet day care safety and sanitation standards. Even if your washing machine isn't supplied with water at 140°F, it will still meet the intention of the day care regulations by ensuring laundry is clean and sanitized.



Dishwashers are similarly certified using NSF/ANSI standard 184. To meet this standard, dishwashing machines running the sanitize cycle must kill 99.999% of bacteria. A list of NSF/ANSI 184 certified dishwashers can also be found on the NSF website: <http://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/appliances/dishwashers>.

To ensure that your appliances operate as intended, they should be operated according to the manufacturer's instructions. Read your owner's manual to make sure you are cleaning and maintaining your units properly. If they don't appear to be functioning properly, they should be serviced to ensure they are cleaning and sanitizing as intended.