

Water Temperature Checks in Childcare Facilities

Monthly water temperature checks at child-accessible sinks are recommended to prevent scalding. Temperatures should also be checked after any plumbing work, system maintenance, or if concerns about temperatures are raised. Water temperature at the client handwashing accessible taps should not exceed 54°C (recommended 49°C) to prevent scalding. Water temperature at the bathtub taps should not exceed 49°C (recommended 43°C).

Testing

To test hot water temperatures, use a calibrated probe thermometer and position the sensor directly under the flow of water. Turn on the hot water tap only and allow the temperature reading to stabilize before recording the maximum temperature.



Corrective Action

If temperatures exceed recommended maximums, corrective action should be taken (e.g., *adjust or install mixing valves, contact maintenance personnel, or consult your Public Health Inspector as appropriate*). It is recommended that staff teach children to turn on the cold water tap first before the hot. Temperatures should also not be too cold, to encourage comfortable and effective handwashing (baseline warm water around 30 °C). Daily supervision when children are using a designated handwash sink will also serve as an additional safety measure.

Contact us at 1-833-476-4743 or [submit a request online](#) at ahs.ca/eph.

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