



Richland Public Health

555 Lexington Ave., Mansfield, OH 44907
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Richland Public Health Department inspectors have noticed certain water heater installations that are not in compliance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. These installations are very **dangerous**.

The above examples illustrate modifications to electric water heater units (electrical connections not in place, thermostat protections removed, pressure relief valves modified/removed, galvanized pipe/caps added to upper areas and water valves added to lower areas, etc.) Essentially, a "modified" hot water tank is being heated through the use of a carbon-monoxide producing kerosene heater source in an un-vented environment.

The following are violations:

4101:3-5-01 Water Heaters.

2017 Ohio Plumbing Code Section 502.1. Installations General. Water heaters shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Oil-fired water heaters shall conform to the requirements of this code and the mechanical code. **Electric water heaters shall conform to the requirements of this code and provisions of NFPA 70.** Gas-fired water heaters shall conform to the requirements of the International Fuel Gas Code. These are electric water heaters with two heating elements for heating the water with approved thermostats to heat the water. These types of water heaters are not meant to be installed with a stove underneath them with an open flame to heat the water.

Ohio Fire Code (4.) 603.4 Portable unvented heaters. Portable unvented fuel-fired heating equipment shall be prohibited in occupancies in Groups A, E, r-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4. *Portable kerosene-fired space or room heaters shall be equipped with an automatic extinguishing tip-over device. Any natural gas-fired or liquid petroleum gas-fired space or room heater shall be equipped with an oxygen depletion safety shutoff system and the source of fuel shall be piped from a location outside of the building. All unvented heaters shall be marked by the manufacturer in some conspicuous manner that the heater has been approved and listed by one of the authoritative sources listed in rule 1301:7-9-01 of the Administration Code.*

Please circulate this information sheet to your staff and feel free to call with any questions.

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Please fill out our [Customer Satisfaction Survey](#).

Richland Public Health's vision is to have the healthiest community possible where residents can enjoy optimal physical, emotional, and environmental health.

Richland Public Health's mission is to assess, maintain, and improve the health and safety of the environment and community through quality public health services.

Prevent. Promote. Protect.