

§418.110(i) Standard: Plumbing facilities.

The hospice must—

- (1) Have an adequate supply of hot water at all times; and**
- (2) Have plumbing fixtures with control valves that automatically regulate the temperature of the hot water used by patients.**

Interpretive Guidelines §418.110(i)

The intent of this regulation is that the temperature of water at fixtures and in showers and tubs used by patients shall be automatically regulated by control valves and delivered for use at the appropriate temperature.

There is a risk that patients or staff may be scalded by excessively hot water discharged by plumbing fixtures. Water that is too hot may scald individuals who are exposed to it. This danger is particularly significant for patients who may have circulatory or other neurological deficits that prevent the instantaneous recoil from water that is too hot.

The chart below shows the estimated time for persons to receive second and third degree

burns at various temperatures.

Water Temperature	Time to Receive Second Degree Burn	Time to Receive Third Degree Burn
120 degrees	8 minutes	10 minutes
124 degrees	2 minutes	4 minutes
131 degrees	17 seconds	30 seconds
140 degrees	3 seconds	5 seconds
150 degrees	<1 second	1 second

The recommended water temperatures at the plumbing fixtures should be maintained at or below 110 degrees.