



STATE OF WASHINGTON
STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL
 Washington State Energy Code Development
Standard Energy Code Proposal Form

Log No. WSEC-R04 Rev 5/9/19

Code being amended: Commercial Provisions Residential Provisions

Code Section # R403.5.5

Brief Description:

Correct the language to not require insulation under electric water heaters in heated spaces.

Proposed code change text: (Copy the existing text from the Integrated Draft, linked above, and then use underline for new text and ~~strikeout~~ for text to be deleted.)

R403.5.5 Electric water heater insulation. All electric water heaters in unheated spaces or in unconditioned spaces, or on concrete floors, and located in an unheated in conditioned spaces, shall be placed on an ~~incompressible~~noncompressible, insulated surface with a minimum thermal resistance of R-10.

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Purpose of code change:

The provisions for requiring insulation underneath an electric water heater was intended to apply to those located in unheated spaces only. As it is currently written, it would require insulation be placed under a water heater installed on any concrete floor, regardless of the location. For instance, this would require an electric water heater that is installed in a 2nd story apartment unit's closet to be placed on R-10 insulation where the rated floor assembly incorporates a concrete layer for the upper membrane. This requires then that insulation be added where there is no benefit. By making the change, the code will apply the provision more appropriately and help the building official apply the code more consistently.

Your amendment must meet one of the following criteria. Select at least one:

- Addresses a critical life/safety need.
- Consistency with state or federal regulations.
- The amendment clarifies the intent or application of the code.
- Addresses a unique character of the state.
- Addresses a specific state policy or statute.
(Note that energy conservation is a state policy)
- Corrects errors and omissions.

Check the building types that would be impacted by your code change:

- Single family/duplex/townhome
- Multi-family 4 + stories
- Institutional
- Multi-family 1 – 3 stories
- Commercial / Retail
- Industrial

