

# The Pipeline

*Helpful plumbing knowledge and tips from Monroe Plumbing*

## Water Heater Heat Traps

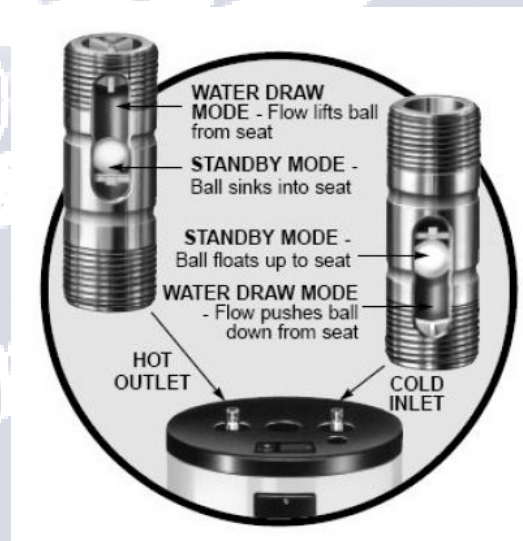
**The Basics On These Little-Known Energy Saving Devices**

A heat trap is a device or, method of piping used to limit the loss of heat from a water heater by convection or, thermo syphoning up through the pipes entering or leaving the water heater. Many codes require the installation of heat traps to save on energy costs. Heat trap valves can reduce convective heat loss by as much as 60% and some research has shown that properly functioning heat traps can save up to 10 percent on your hot water heating costs over a year.

The most common method used is to install heat trap nipples on the inlet and outlet of the water heater. A heat trap nipple typically has either a ball or, flap built into the nipple that blocks the flow of heat up out of the water heater into the pipes yet moves out of the way when hot water is turned on allowing

water to flow unobstructed. Typically heat trap nipples are also dielectric which means they limit corrosion of the steel water heater tank which can be caused by connecting dissimilar metals to the water heater such as copper.

*Continued on page 2....*



1-877-PLUMB-41

MONROEPLUMBING.NET

# The Pipeline

*Helpful plumbing knowledge and tips from Monroe Plumbing*

## Water Heater Heat Traps

**The Basics On These Little-Known Energy Saving Devices**

*Continued from page 1...*

Many times water flowing through a heat trap nipple can generate noise with either the ball rattling in the flow or, the flap making a buzzing noise. Occasionally the ball in the ball-style heat traps can become stuck. Some heat traps can be taken apart by removing the plastic insert on one end to free the ball. It may need to be cleaned, or the seat may have a scale build up. You will know when it is stuck if you have no hot water flow.

Have concerns about your water heater and need it repaired or replaced?

Call the Service Dept. at  
Monroe Plumbing...

1-877-PLUMB-41 or 440-708-0006



Source: [www.waterheatinginfo.com](http://www.waterheatinginfo.com)

1-877-PLUMB-41

MONROEPLUMBING.NET