



# The Mulvaney Pipeline

## GO GREEN AND SAVE Tank-less Water Heaters Are Back

Prudent use of tank-less water heaters can reap vast savings when placed in the proper application. We have long heard the benefits of this instant hot water system when used in household applications. In reality the best application of these heaters turn out to be in the commercial arena.

Europeans have long utilized tank-less water heaters in applications ranging from residential to large commercial applications including hotels and guest houses. The driving force behind the use of these heaters was the need to save piping costs with single pipe cold water system rather than piping both hot and cold water throughout larger buildings. These heaters saved piping and electricity due to their small size, lack of a storage tank and use of energy on demand only.

United States never really embraced the use of instant hot water systems. They were seen as gadgets that could not adequately fill the American need for an endless supply of hot water. Another barrier to widespread use of these heaters was the widespread supply of relatively hard water in the US. Much of our potable water is derived from deep water wells, the natural calcium chloride content of this water made tank-less heaters almost impossible to use.

Today more and more commercial building designers are taking advantage of this long standing technology. Have you ever utilized a restroom in a large building only to find cold water coming from the hot water tap? This of course is due to the long piping runs from the hot water supply to the point of use. To avoid this problem designers utilized a return pipe, installed a circulation pump thereby providing an immediate supply of hot water to every faucet in the building.

Enter today's world of environmental awareness and sustainability. Such circulating piping systems are costly and wasteful in terms of material and energy consumption. Add to this the cost of maintaining large quantities of hot water for users and you have a very non-eco friendly hot water system. We can no longer design systems believing there is a never ending supply of materials and energy to support these designs. Most Architects are systematically building sustainability into their new designs. Concepts from increased green space, use of natural light, better insulations, more efficient less polluting heat sources have become the norm.

Going forward the tank-less water heater will play an important roll in providing hot water in commercial buildings resulting in operational savings of 20 to 50% over traditional hot water heaters. To get the most out of these devices you must be knowledgeable about a host of issues before you can truly reap the benefits of tank-less equipment.

## WaterSense standard Finalized

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its "final" version of the WaterSense for Homes standard in mid-December.



### Here are the parts that will impact plumbing contractors.

1. Everything has to be leak tested via pressure-loss testing and visual inspection. Final service pressure cannot exceed 60 psi. (Home fire sprinkler systems are excluded from this requirement).
2. Hot water distribution system shall store no more than 0.5-gal. of water in any piping/manifold between the hot water source and any hot water fixture.
3. No more than 0.6-gal. of water can run down the drain before hot water is delivered to the fixture. To prevent recirculation when a fixture is not being used, timer- and temperature-based recirculating systems are not allowed.
4. All toilets shall be WaterSense labeled tank-type toilets.
5. All urinals, if installed, shall be WaterSense labeled flushing urinals.
6. All bathroom sink faucets shall be WaterSense labeled faucets.
7. Kitchen sink faucets shall have maximum flow rate of 2.2-gpm.
8. All showerheads must comply with the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, which sets a maximum flow rate of 2.5-gpm. In cases where more than one showerhead or hand-held shower is provided in combination with others in a single device that connects to a single shower outlet, the entire device must meet the maximum flow requirement in all possible operating modes.

There appears to be much activity among trade associations regarding WaterSense, however all agree that the stated limitation above, will stand the review and challenge process and remain in force. Gone are the days when you can flood yourself in a luxurious shower at the end of the day. Water usage will and is becoming a strictly utilitarian function that leaves little room for those who relish their deluge showers and multiple head shower environments.

### MULVANEY REMAINS DEDICATED TO CUSTOMERS THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES

The economy with regard to construction in Connecticut is not a bright one. Connecticut is lagging national averages in most growth categories. Hardest hit is the construction trades. As businesses shrink or leave the market, only specialized business units are picking up some of the slack. Our neighbor to the north, New Hampshire is doing much better in terms of keeping up with the economic recovery. Many feel this will help-Connecticut and the whole region improves as we move through 2011.

Contractors such as ourselves depend on our reputation for quality work, fair pricing and dedication to the customer base. We at Mulvaney are thankful to our many fine clients who continue to utilize our services. Most projects are smaller these days, but the need to put extra effort into each one of them is more important than ever. Having a reputation for delivering on time and backing our workmanship has allowed Mulvaney Mechanical to weather this lengthy downturn in new work and operational needs. We would like to thank each and every one of our clients, both large and small for the loyalty they have shown us. Through good times and bad, Mulvaney Mechanical remains committed to serving customers to the highest level possible. We all look forward to weathering 2011 and a better 2012, as our economy improves and returns to the vibrant one it once was.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Pick your costume carefully, be safe, and have fun.



## WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

- "Stick to your guns" - would be said to keep soldiers from retreating in the face of danger or a strong adversary.
- "By and large" - A nautical term meaning to sail with the wind in a desirable direction.
- "Hand over fist" - Originally referred to climbing a rope
- "Shake a leg" - First meant to dance now means hurry up
- "Three sheets to the wind" - Sheets were chain weights for sails on early ships. The term was meant to describe how much weight was needed to hold the sails in heavy winds.
- "The whole nine yards" - A tailor's expression to denote the highest quality tailored suit which typically requires 9 yards of fabric. Anything less would be a cheaper suit.
- "In the Lime light" - Comes from early stage days when lime was added to an incandescent light source to increase the brightness thus you're in the lime light.
- "No Spring Chicken" - New England farmers found that a chicken born in spring brought a better price than older birds, thus the term was indicating old age.
- "Passing the Buck" - Came from card players who used buckshot or a musket ball to designate who the dealer was. If you wanted to avoid the deal you "passed the buck to the next player."
- "Lock stock and barrel" - Refers to the 3 parts of a musket the lock, the wood stock and the barrel all 3 of which was needed to fire the musket. When you put everything on the line it was said to be lock, stock and barrel.
- "Spill the beans" - Came from early voting using white and black beans in a collection pot to denote yea or nay.. If the pot was accidentally spilled, you were said to have spilled the beans and disclosed the voting tally.
- "Red letter day" - Refers to old calendars drawn by monks. They were usually written in black ink but red oxide ink was used for holidays and special days, so they would stand out from regular days.
- "Saved by the bell and Graveyard shift" - Derived from the fear of people being accidentally buried alive. Many people were buried with a string extending from the coffin to the surface, where it was attached to a bell. If you were not truly dead and awoke, you could pull the string and ring the bell thus being saved by the bell. The graveyard attendant charged with listening for any bells in the night was said to be on the graveyard shift.
- "To let your hair down" - Dates back to Napoleonic times when women wore elaborate hairdos that took hours to create. When finally at home they removed all the pins and clips and let their hair down thus relaxing .
- "To smell a rat" - In past centuries dogs were used to detect rats in houses by watching their movements whenever they heard or smelled a rat. Now it means to sense something is wrong.
- "Wet behind the ears" - Comes from newborns being wet from the birthing process thus those inexperienced or new at the task were wet behind the ears.
- "To rack one's brain" - Comes from medieval times when people were tortured on a stretching rack for information they were thought to have withheld.
- "Gung Ho" - Is the Chinese term to signal workers to begin work on the Great Wall of China each morning. Eventually US Marines stationed in the area picked up the term to mean extreme dedication to overcoming an obstacle or achieving goal.

## What the Heck is it?

If you can name the item pictured, you may  
**WIN A MULVANEY MECHANICAL  
Leather Jacket**



If you e-mail your entry, you must write "NEWSLETTER CONTEST" in the subject line to avoid our SPAM filter. Please mail to [janette@mulvaneyinc.com](mailto:janette@mulvaneyinc.com)

If multiple correct answers are received, a winner will be selected at random.

Just like this one



## The answer to last quarter's quiz is:

An 18th century screw top jar lid remover. Screw top jars were a new innovation that provided better jar sealing and less food spoilage. The downside to this new technology was that housewives of the period found it difficult to remove the lids. The jar opener pictured was one of the first models to the problem.

Congratulations to Bill Sapienza of Sapienza Architects, LLC for providing the only correct answer we received



## What's Goin' On?

Oct 3 – 8th	National Safety Council 2010 Expo	San Diego CA
Oct 16 – 18th	NSC National Congress & Expo	Orlando FL
Oct 27 – 29th	IFMA World Workplace	Atlanta GA
Oct 27 – 30th	PHCC Connect 2010	Las Vegas NV
Nov 16 – 19th	RETA National Conf & Equip show	Portland OR
Nov 17 – 19th	Greenbuild International Conf & Expo	Chicago IL
Jan 29 – Feb 2nd	ASHRAE	Las Vegas NV
Jan 31 –Feb 2nd	AHR Expo	Las Vegas NV

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." - Thomas Edison