Water temperatures referenced in Oregon OSHA’s rules

Oregon OSHA’s rules include requirements to ensure that workers are provided with cold, cool, tepid, warm, or hot water for drinking, bathing, hand washing, laundering clothes, etc. To help employers understand the differences between these water temperature terms, we have provided the following table as a guideline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Temperature Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cold</td>
<td>35°F - 65°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cool</td>
<td>65°F - 77°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tepid</td>
<td>77°F - 90°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warm</td>
<td>90°F - 98°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>98°F - 105°F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rules that include water temperature requirements include, but are not limited to:

**General Industry**

1910.141(d)(2) Lavatories.

(ii) Each lavatory shall be provided with hot and cold running water, or tepid running water.

**Construction**

437-003-0020 Toilets.

(1) …and washing facilities which include wash basins, warm water and soap.

**Agriculture**

Field Sanitation:

437-004-1110(5) Potable drinking water.

(b) The water must be suitably cool and in sufficient amounts, taking into account the air temperature, humidity, and the nature of the work, to meet the needs of all employees.

**Agriculture Labor Housing**:

437-004-1120(8) Bathing, hand washing, laundry, and toilet facilities – General.

(a) Provide an adequate supply of hot and cold water under pressure for all common use bathing, hand washing, and laundry facilities at all labor housing and related facilities.

**Potable water** means safe drinking water that meets the bacteriological and chemical quality requirements in OAR Chapter 333, Division 61, Public Water Systems, Oregon Health Authority.