

Bradford White® Water Heater Age

How to determine the date of production/manufacture or age of Bradford White® Water Heater Systems.

Water heaters in general have an average estimated useful service life of 10-12 years, though water quality, routine upkeep/maintenance, and location of the water heater will all play critical roles in the longevity of these systems.

Parent Company: Bradford White Corporation

Subsidiaries: Bradford White Water Heaters, LAARS Heating Systems Company, Niles Steel Tank (NST), Bradford White Canada

The date of production/manufacture or age of Bradford White brand Water Heater equipment can be determined from the *nine or ten* character serial number located on the rating data plate. The serial number begins with two (2) letters followed by a sequential production number (seven digits in length before December 2007, and eight digits in length thereafter).

Example serial number styles/formats found:

- **Style 1:** **DG6322957**
- **Style 2:** **OA8226825** (*Unique computer error serial number beginning with the letter "O"*).

Legend: Year is **RED**; Month is **GREEN**; Week is **BLUE**

Style 1: **DG6322957**

Year of manufacture can be determined by using the **1st letter of the serial number (see table)**

Month of manufacture can be determined by using the **2nd letter of the serial number (see table)**

Bradford White® Water Heater Age

STYLE 1

The date of manufacture is coded in the 1st two digits of the serial number and represent the year and month of production. Bradford White® uses a 20 year rotating letter designation for the year. (i.e. J=1992/2012).

DG6322957

Year Month

The remainder of the serial number is a sequential number

A = 1984 or 2004
B = 1985 or 2005
C = 1986 or 2006
D = 1987 or 2007
E = 1988 or 2008
F = 1989 or 2009
G = 1990 or 2010
H = 1991 or 2011
J = 1992 or 2012
K = 1993 or 2013

L = 1994 or 2014
M = 1995 or 2015
N = 1996 or 2016
P = 1997 or 2017
S = 1998 or 2018
T = 1999 or 2019
W = 2000 or 2020
X = 2001 or 2021
Y = 2002 or 2022
Z = 2003 or 2023

A=January
B=February
C=March
D=April
E=May
F=June
G=July
H=August
J=September
K=October
L=November
M=December

For the year column, Bradford White did not use the letters I, O, Q, R, U or V. However, due to a computer error there were some OA serial numbers issued in January 1997 only.

Bradford White® utilizes a rotating 20 year letter cycle to encode the year. (e.g., the letter "M" represents both 1995 and 2015 year of manufacture).

Production Year Codes:

- A= 1984 or 2004 or 2024
- B= 1985 or 2005 or 2025
- C= 1986 or 2006 or 2026
- D= 1987 or 2007
- E= 1988 or 2008
- F= 1989 or 2009
- G= 1990 or 2010
- H= 1991 or 2011
- J= 1992 or 2012
- K= 1993 or 2013

Production Year Codes:

- L= 1994 or 2014
- M= 1995 or 2015
- N= 1996 or 2016
- P= 1997 or 2017
- S= 1998 or 2018
- T= 1999 or 2019
- W= 2000 or 2020
- X= 2001 or 2021
- Y= 2002 or 2022
- Z= 2003 or 2023

Production Month Codes:

- A= January
- B= February
- C= March
- D= April
- E= May
- F= June

Production Month Codes:

- G= July
- H= August
- J= September
- K= October
- L= November
- M= December

It is common to encounter a Bradford White® water heater that may be difficult to determine which specific 20 year designation the letter code represents. *In order to accurately determine which 20 year cycle the letter may represent, one must also look at other determining factors.*

The **ANSI standards compliance date is the most common key indicator** to assist with this determination (see our sample style 1 photo below).

In the photo example below, the first letter "D" in the serial number can represent both @ 1987 and 2007.

The ANSI compliance date on the data tag indicates compliance with **ANSI Z21.10.1a-1985**, where 1985 is the year revision for ANSI Z21.10.1a% compliance standard.

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This code is typically revised every 6-8 years, which indicates two common sense considerations...

- ✓ 1. This water heater cannot have been manufactured prior to 1985.
- ✓ 2. This water heater is more likely to have been manufactured in 1987 (within 6-8 years of 1985 code revision) as opposed to 2007.

In absence of the listed ANSI year revision, one must rely on other factors or clues including but not limited to:

- ✓ physical appearance,
- ✓ dates on the building or health department (authority having jurisdiction AHJ) inspection tag or sticker,
- ✓ service tags (if present),
- ✓ age of the structure it is installed in,
- ✓ and simple common sense.

If all else fails, contact Bradford White with the model and serial number (including "dash number") for assistance.

Bradford White® Data Tag

Style 1 Data Plate

Sample Serial

DG6322957

MODEL NO.		SERIAL NO.	
M-I-40T5LN-6		DG6322957	
CAPACITY	INPUT	EQUIPPED FOR	
40	34000	NATURAL	
U.S. GAL.	B.T.U./HR.	GAS ONLY	
TEST PRESS. P.S.I.	MAXIMUM WORKING PRESS P.S.I.	MANIFOLD PRESS. IN W.C.	
300	150	4.0	
MFD FOR: BRADFORD-WHITE WATER HEATERS, INC. 24TH & ELLSWORTH STS PHILADELPHIA, PA 19146			
ANSI Z21.10.1a-1985			
AUTOMATIC STORAGE WATER HEATER			
GIVE COMPLETE DATA ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE 238-17175-02 P			

Style 2: OA8226825

Due to a computer @ error there were some Bradford-White® Serial Numbers that began with the letter "O" which were mistakenly released into the market.

("O" as well as I, Q, R, U, & V were otherwise not used as part of their serial number nomenclature system.) .

These units were manufactured only in January, 1997. Should you encounter one of these rare unicorns....

Bradford White® Data Tag

Unicorns

Sample Serial

OA8226825

