

## Installation, Operation & Maintenance Manual

# COBREX<sup>®</sup> Instantaneous

Steam Water Heater



#### Disclaimer

The information contained in this manual is subject to change without notice from Watts Heating and Hot Water Solutions LLC d/b/a PVI Industries, LLC. ("PVI"). PVI makes no warranty of any kind with respect to this material, including, but not limited to, implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular application. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation may not apply. PVI is not liable for errors appearing in this manual, not for incidental or consequential damages occurring in connection with the furnishing, performance, or use of these materials.



Hot Water Solutions

PVI Industries • Fort Worth, TX USA: T: (817) 335-9531 • Toll Free: (800) 784-8326 • PVI.com Technical Support • (800) 433-5654 (ext. 3) • Mon-Fri, 8 am - 5 pm CST © 2024 PVI

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Safety Considerations
- 2. Product Description
- 3. Water Heater Installation
  - 3.1 Codes
  - 3.2 Installation
  - 3.3 Electrical Requirements
  - 3.4 Water Inlet / Outlet Connections
  - 3.5 Relief Valve Piping
  - 3.6 Steam Connections

## 4. Description of Operation

4.1 Description of Operation: Sub-cooler

## 5. Startup Procedure

- 5.1 Pre-startup Inspection
- 5.2 With All Product Valves Closed
- 5.3 Operating Reminders
- 5.4 Shut Down

## 6. Maintenance

- 6.1 Cleaning the Heat Exchanger
- 6.2 Temperature Control Valve
- 6.3 Relief Valves
- 6.4 Y-strainers
- 7. Troubleshooting Suggestions

## A WARNING



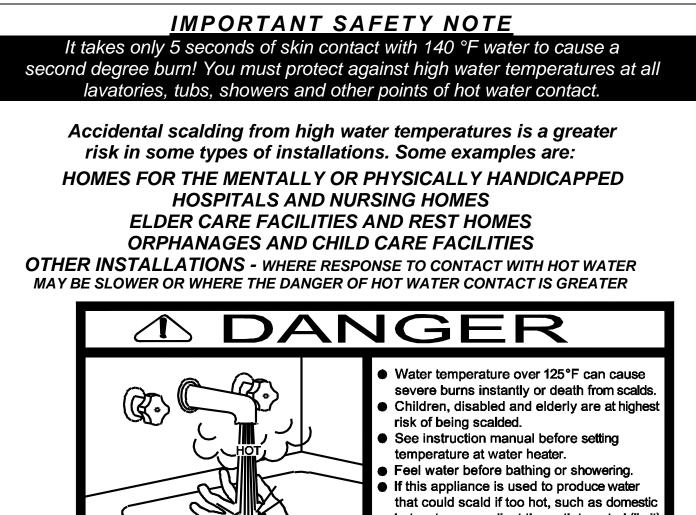
FIRST

Please read carefully before proceeding with installation. Your failure to follow any attached instructions or operating parameters may lead to the product's failure.

Keep this Manual for future reference.

## 1 SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

WARNING: Do not use this appliance if any part has been under water. Immediately call a qualified service technician to inspect the unit and to replace any part of the control system, any gas controls, and any other items affecting safe appliance operation, and which has been under water. Failure to follow these instructions can cause property damage, personal injury, exposure to hazardous materials or death.

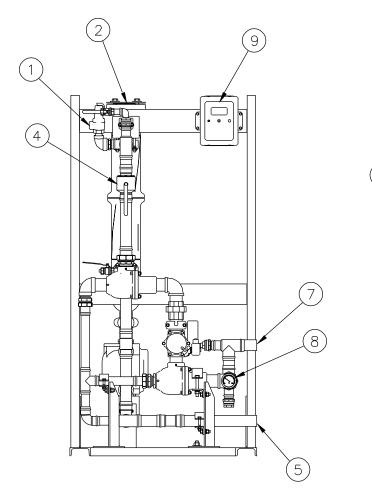


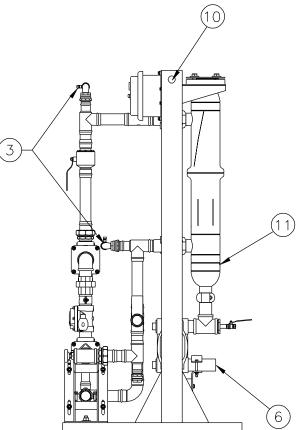
that could scald if too hot, such as domestic hot water use, adjust the outlet control (limit) or use temperature limiting valves to obtain a maximum water temperature of 120°F.

Thermostatically controlled mixing valves must be used in the design of the potable hot water system. Potable hot water should be tempered to no more than 110°F when used for bathing or other personal uses.

Good engineering practice mandates thermostatically controlled mixing valves set at 120°F or less to keep the delivered water temperature below scalding temperatures of 125°F.

## 2 PRODUCT DESCRIPTION





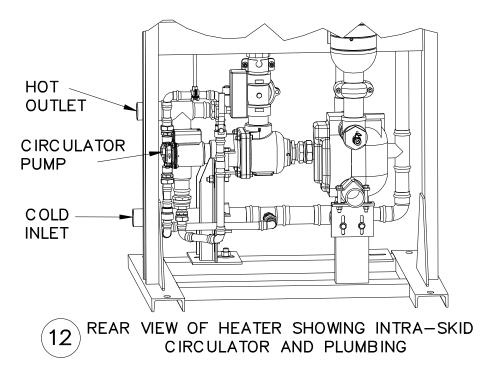
## Typical COBREX Construction (see optional equipment on next page)

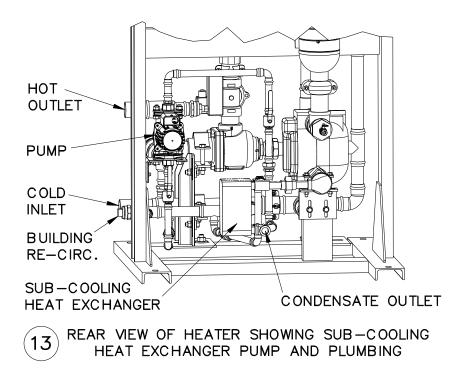
- 1. Safety relief valve
- 2. Steam connection
- 3. Clean in place port
- 4. Hot water isolation valve
- 5. Cold water inlet
- 6. Condensate return connection
- 7. Hot water outlet

- 8. Temperature gauge
- 9. Electrical connections / Control cabinet
- 10. Lifting point
- 11. Double wall weep hole
- 12. Optional Intra-skid Circulator (see next page)
- 13. Optional Sub-cooler w/pump (see next page)

NOTE: Components, controls and connection locations may vary.

NOTE: Heater may be equipped with both options.





5

## 3 WATER HEATER INSTALLATION

## 3.1 CODES

The equipment must be installed in accordance with the instructions in this manual, appliance markings and supplemental instructions and in compliance with those installation regulations in force in the local area where the installation is to be made. These shall be carefully followed in all cases. Authorities having jurisdiction must be consulted before installation is made. In the absence of such regulations, the installation must be in accordance with the instructions in this manual, appliance marking and supplemental instructions and in compliance with the latest edition of the applicable state mechanical and plumbing code.

## 3.2 INSTALLATION

**CHECKING EQUIPMENT BEFORE YOU INSTALL** – Inspect the unit completely upon receipt from the freight carrier before signing the bill of lading. Inspect the appliance and all accompanying parts for signs of impact or mishandling. Verify the total number of pieces shown on packing slips with those actually received. Contact the freight carrier immediately if any damage or shortage is detected.

**WARRANTY** – The Factory Warranty does not apply to the improper installation or operation of the equipment. Experience has shown that improper installation or system design, rather than faulty equipment, is the cause of most operating problems. The warranty also excludes damage to the equipment caused by corrosive chemicals present in the mechanical room, steam or water. (See Warranty for complete details.)

- 1. Confirm that the system utilities are adequate to meet the heater requirements on the decal.
- 2. These units are suitable for indoor installation only.
- 3. The appliance must be placed on a level floor or housekeeping pad.
- 4. Do not attempt to move or lift the heater with the plumbing connections or heat exchanger. Lift only by the skid and two lifting points at the top of the frame, using industry standard safe rigging methods.
- 5. Locate the unit so that if water connections should leak, water damage will not occur. Water damage is not covered by the manufacturer's warranty.
- 6. Units and associated electrical components and electrical connections must be installed so they are protected from water (dripping, spraying, rain, etc.) during appliance operation and service.
- 7. It is recommended that at least 18" be provided on all sides and above the appliance for service and inspection. Optional equipment may increase the clearance requirements. Allow sufficient space for installing and servicing connections such as water, steam, and condensate, relief valve to drain plumbing, electrical, pump and other auxiliary equipment.
- 8. In hard water areas, potable water treatment should be used to reduce the introduction of minerals into the system. Minerals in the water can collect on the tubes and heat-exchanger surfaces reducing the life of the product. Heat exchanger failure due to scale accumulation is not covered by the product warranty.

## 3.3 ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS

This appliance is wired for 120-volt service. The appliance, when installed, must be electrically grounded in accordance with the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction or in the absence of such requirements, with the latest edition of the National Electrical Code ANSI/NFPA No. 70. When the unit is installed in Canada, it must conform to the CAE C22.1, Canadian Electrical Code and/or Local Electrical Codes.

- 1. Supply 15 amp, 120V service to each water heater. Separate electrical circuits are recommended for multiple appliance installations.
- 2. All wiring between the unit and field installed devices must be made with properly rated stranded copper wire of proper size for the appliance load. Damage resulting from the use of aluminum wiring will be unwarranted.
- 3. Line voltage wire exterior to the appliance must be enclosed in approved conduit or approved metal clad cable.

## 3.4 WATER INLET / OUTLET CONNECTIONS

**IMPORTANT:** Before connecting the heater, steam, water and condensate lines must be supported so the water heater is not supporting any piping weight. If there is weight put on the heat exchanger connections, it could lead to unwarranted corrosion of the heat exchanger or mechanical damage of the system.

- 1. Connect the water inlet and outlet to the potable system. Use backup wrenches on all screwed pipe connections to prevent damage to the heater plumbing. Piping and components connected to the water heater must be suitable for potable water, for the water temperatures they will experience and for their application.
- 2. For ease of service, install unions and shutoff valves on inlet and outlet piping to the unit.
- 3. If building recirculation is available, Connect the building hot water recirculation return line directly to the cold-water inlet of the heater. **NOTE**: if the condensate sub-cooling option is purchased from the factory, a dedicated connection is provided for the building hot water recirculation return line. See the drawing on page 5.
- 4. Fix any system leaks. DO NOT use petroleum-based stop-leak products. Petroleum-based products can cause issues, such as in the gaskets, and delayed failure. It is not recommended for potential failures of other parts. All system leaks must be repaired. All system leaks must be repaired.
- 5. After plumbing the unit and checking for leaks, the heat exchanger and steam and hot water piping should be insulated. Insulation will reduce wasteful heat loss and will help protect operators from contacting hot surfaces.

WARNING: Insulate or guard all surfaces containing steam and hot water. Uninsulated or unguarded surfaces containing steam or hot water can be hot enough to cause severe burns instantly, if contacted. Failure to insulate or guard all surfaces containing steam or hot water can result in property damage, personal injury, or death.

#### 3.5 RELIEF VALVE PIPING

COBREX water heaters are supplied with pressure relief valves for each heat exchanger sized in accordance with ANSI/ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section IV. The relief valve(s) must be threaded directly into the dedicated relief valve fitting located near the top of the heat exchangers and the relief valve discharge must be plumbed to an appropriate floor drain. The discharge line must allow complete drainage of the valve and line.

The water heater must not be operated without a correctly installed, properly sized and properly operating relief valve. If a replacement relief valve is required, it must be of the automatic reset type pressure relief valve complying with the ANSI/ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section IV, must not be less than the hourly Btu input rating of the water heater as stated on the information decal located on or adjacent the Heat Exchanger and must not have a relieving pressure exceeding the 150 psi maximum working pressure of the water heater.

A relief valve that discharges periodically may be caused by the thermal expansion of heated water when restricted by a backflow preventer or check valve installed in the cold-water supply. A means to control thermal expansion must be provided by a qualified plumbing professional. <u>Do not plug the relief valve</u>.

WARNING: Do not install a reducing coupling, valve or other restriction between the relief valve discharge and a suitable floor drain. Such restriction could prevent the valve from fully relieving if the pressure settings are exceeded, which could result in property damage, personal injury or death.

WARNING: The relief valve discharge must be piped to a suitable floor drain to avoid exposure to hot discharge water during relief valve operation. Exposure to hot discharge water can cause water damage and/or burns resulting in property damage, personal injury or death.

## 3.6 STEAM CONNECTIONS

**IMPORTANT:** Before connecting the heater, steam, water and condensate lines must be supported so the water heater is not supporting any piping weight. If there is weight put on the heat exchanger connections, it could lead to unwarranted corrosion of the heat exchanger or mechanical damage of the system.

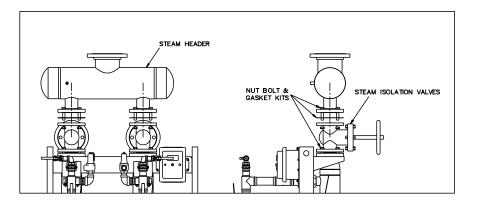
**IMPORTANT:** Do not use superheated steam for this product. Only use saturated steam with pressure not exceeding 15 psi, and temperature not exceeding 250°F.

- 1. All steam and water supply lines should be flushed before connecting the unit. Failure to flush lines could cause components of unit to malfunction
- 2. Steam supplied to the heater must not exceed 15 psi. If the steam supply pressure exceeds 15 psi, a steam pressure regulating valve must be used to limit steam supply pressure to 15 psi.
- 3. If the steam supply pressure rises above 15 psi, the temperature of the heat exchanger will rise above its maximum allowable temperature limit of 250°F. Elevated temperatures above this maximum allowable limit will damage the heat exchanger and cause premature failure. A special factory installed temperature indicating label located on the steam inlet of the heat exchanger will identify situations where a heat exchanger has experienced temperatures

above the allowable limit. There are circular patches on the label that permanently change to black when the surface temperature rises above 250°F. If the temperature indicator shows that the heat exchanger reached an excessively high temperature, then immediate action is required to correct the steam supply pressure and ensure that pressure is properly regulated at 15 psi or below to prevent heat exchanger damage. Removal of the factory installed temperature indicating label will void the factory warranty.

WARNING: Steam supply to the heat exchanger must be constant and less than or equal to 15 psi. An unregulated steam supply or steam supply in excess of 15 psi could cause loss of temperature control and failure of heater components that may result in property damage, personal injury or death.

- 4. In order to achieve rated hot water output, the capacity of the steam supply system must exceed the heater requirements as stated on the heater decal.
- 5. A y-strainer with blow-down valve with piping to a suitable drain and a steam trap with piping to a suitable drain or condensate receiver plumbing must be installed in the steam supply piping near the appliance and upstream from the steam pressure regulating valve, if equipped.
- 6. A steam pressure gauge must be installed in the steam piping near the appliance inlet and downstream from the steam pressure regulating valve, if equipped.
- 7. If the optional steam header and optional steam isolation valves were shipped with the heater, install them using the supplied gaskets, grade 5 bolts and nuts, per the drawing show below. Install the steam pressure gauge into the coupling on the steam header and orient the gauge vertically.



- 8. Connect the main steam trap(s) to the condensate return. The trap(s) must be located below the elevation of the condensate drain connection on the heat exchanger.
- 9. Connect steam and condensate connections to the building system plumbing. The recommended methods of condensate distribution are:
  - a. Plumb to a condensate receiver and pump or vacuum return to the condensate return header.
  - b. Plumb to a pneumatic/electric actuated condensate pump trap for return to the condensate return header.
  - c. Plumb to drain (Requires additional make-up water at steam supply boiler).
    NOTE: In some applications where a heater is equipped with a sub-cooler, and condensate is plumbed to a drain, it may be necessary to add a restriction to the flow of condensate from the outlet of the sub-cooler.

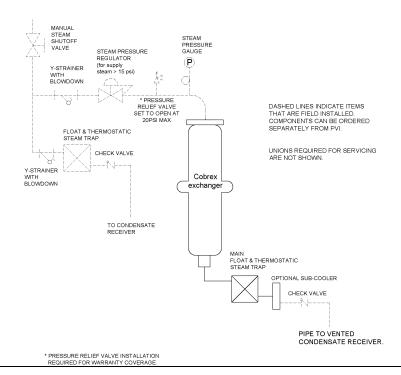
Add an adjustable orifice such as a gate valve to the condensate sub-cooler outlet so that the resistance of the orifice will slow down the flow of condensate through the heat exchanger and allow sufficient time for heat to transfer and cool the condensate properly.

**IMPORTANT:** Inadequate drainage of condensate from the water heater will adversely affect heat transfer, will limit water heater performance and may cause unwarranted damage to the water heater. After all the connections are made it is a good practice to tighten all unions and check the electrical connections.

- 10. Insulate or guard all surfaces and pipes containing steam and/or hot water.
- 11. When insulating the heat exchanger, do not cover the temperature indicating label or the weep hole with insulation.

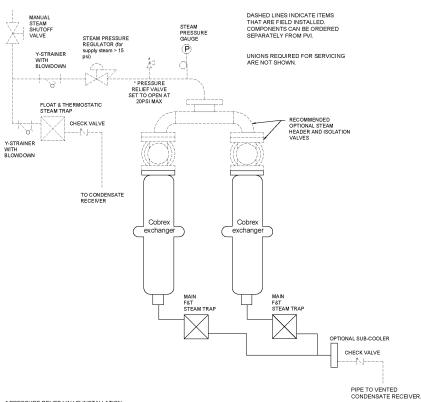
WARNING: Insulate or guard all surfaces containing steam and/or hot water. Uninsulated or unguarded surfaces containing steam or hot water can be hot enough to cause severe burns instantly, if contacted. Failure to insulate or guard all surfaces containing steam or hot water can result in property damage, personal injury, or death.

#### **Typical COBREX Steam Piping Layouts**



Steam Side Piping to Single Exchanger Cobrex Units (Configurations 1, 2, 3 and 5)

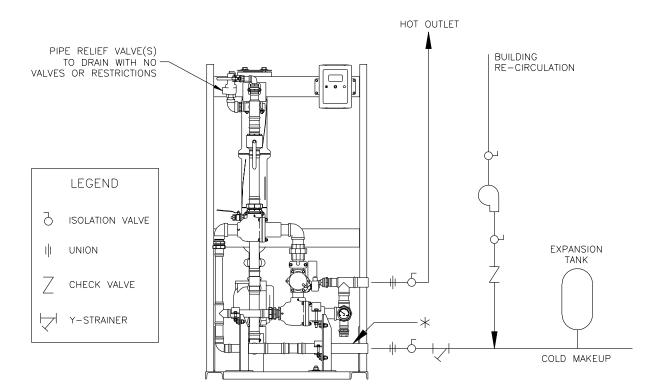
## Steam Side Piping to Dual Exchanger Cobrex Units (Configurations 4 and 6)



\* PRESSURE RELIEF VALVE INSTALLATION REQUIRED FOR WARRANTY COVERAGE.

## SUGGESTED PIPING DIAGRAM

## **Typical Single COBREX Plumbing Layout**



**Typical Dual COBREX Plumbing Layout** (Requires Balanced Reverse Return Piping) EXPANSION TANK BUILDING RE-CIRCULATION COLD MAKEUP  $\ast$ PIPE RELIEF VALVE(S) TO DRAIN WITH NO VALVES OR RESTRICTIONS LEGEND 5 ISOLATION VALVE ılı. UNION ₩-6-₩--6 Ζ CHECK VALVE HOT OUTLET HOT OUTLET Ô Ô \* -6 -6-+COLD INLET COLD INLET

\* Dedicated connection for building recirculation on heaters with optional sub-cooler.

Connect recirculation to this point instead of cold inlet if sub-cooler is ordered.

## 4 DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION

When there is no hot water demand, the steam and water sides of the heat exchangers in this water heating system reach thermal equilibrium, so it is constantly ready to provide hot water. If the available supply steam pressure is more than 15 psi, a steam regulating valve (available option) must be used to reduce the steam pressure. A pressure-sensing pilot on this steam regulating valve forces the steam valve closed as pressure reaches and is maintained at 15 psi. As hot water demand is placed on the appliance, cold water entering the heat exchanger condenses steam causing pressure in the steam inlet piping to drop. This lower pressure causes additional steam to enter the heat exchanger to meet the heating load. When hot water demand diminishes, steam pressure in the steam again increases to match the supply steam pressure.

When hot water demand is initiated, cold water enters the cold inlet port of the temperature control valve(s). Cold water flows into the valve body, where it is blended with hot water from the heat exchanger. If the blended water temperature at the valve outlet increases or decreases from the specified temperature, the internal ports reposition to change the amount of cold and hot water blended to again reach the specified blended water temperature. When demand ceases, the temperature control valve moves to seal the hot port. The water heater utilizes a two-valve step reduction system to improve temperature control and response to changes in demand. In order for these valves to properly respond to changing hot water demand and to maintain proper temperature control, a constant flow of at least 4 gallon per minute is required. This flow is provided by the intra-skid circulator pump included with all 140°F and 160°F heaters. The 120°F unit does not have the 4-gpm minimum requirement.

Two temperature limiting devices monitor the temperature downstream of each temperature control valve. If the valve does not hold the temperature close to its setpoint, the temperature limiting devices will shut the solenoid valve blocking flow of heated water to the outlet.

## 4.1 Description of Operation: Sub-cooler

Some heaters are equipped with an optional sub-cooler. The sub-cooler option consists of a plate type heat exchanger in the condensate line and a dedicated pump to circulate domestic water through the cold side of the exchanger. This option reduces the 200°F plus temperature of condensate exiting the trap(s). This reduces energy lost in the condensate lines and enables the heater to be installed into a vacuum condensate return system where condensate must be below a certain design temperature. The condensate that is produced during heater operation flows from the steam trap and through the sub-cooling heat exchanger and then enters into the condensate receiver or drain. The sub-cooler circulator flows domestic water from the cold inlet of the water heater to the sub-cooling heat exchanger and then back to the cold inlet plumbing where this heated water is blended with the cold water flowing into the heater so that some of the heat from the condensate is returned to the water heater. A temperature limiting thermostat monitors the temperature of this blended water and if the temperature at this point becomes higher than the set point, the thermostat will shut off the circulator pump. This protects the water heater from overheating if the steam trap were to fail and allows steam to flow into the sub-cooling heat exchanger.

## 5 STARTUP PROCEDURE

## 5.1 Pre-startup Inspection:

- Confirm the water supply pressure does not exceed the psi rating of the relief valve and heat exchanger.
- Confirm the main steam stop valve upstream of the water heater is closed. If the heater is installed without a steam regulating valve, steam supply pressure must never exceed 15 psi.
- Water supply pressure must be more than 30 psi flow pressure at all times.
- Check all pipe fittings.
- A steam pressure gauge must be installed in the steam piping entering the heater. If there is a steam regulating valve, the pressure gauge must be installed in the downstream tap or downstream piping.

## 5.2 With Product Inlet and Outlet Valves Closed, Proceed as Follows:

- 1. Check the set-point of the temperature limiting device near the hot water outlet.
  - The limit device located downstream of the secondary thermostatic mixing valve and near the hot water outlet must be set 10°F above the outlet water temperature element installed in the heater (i.e. if the outlet water temperature element is 120°F, the downstream limit set-point is 130°F).
  - The limit device located between the primary and secondary thermostatic mixing valves is not adjustable and

is set at 190°F, the upstream limit closes the high limit solenoid shutoff valve at 190°F)

- 2. Crack open the steam strainer blow-down valve.
- 3. Slowly open the water supply valve to the heater. Check for water leaks on waterside piping. Crack open the potable water outlet valve downstream of the heater to vent air from exchanger and piping. Momentarily open the relief valve to purge air out of the system. It may be necessary to open a hot water faucet downstream in the system. Continue venting air from the heater and piping, until a consistent flow of water is demonstrated.

**CAUTION:** If circulation pumps are present in the waterside plumbing of the heater, do not switch power on to the unit before introducing water into the heater plumbing. Allowing the pumps to run dry for long periods will cause damage to the pumps and is not covered by the warranty.

4. Switch on power to unit to activate the solenoid valves and thermostats. The solenoid valve(s) should open.

**CAUTION**: Do not supply steam to a heater until a consistent flow of water is demonstrated.

- 5. Crack open the steam supply to the heater and allow condensate and air to be vented through the steam inlet strainer blow-down and steam supply valves. Then close the inlet strainer blow-down valve.
- Slowly and fully open the main steam shutoff valve(s). Confirm steam pressure entering the heat exchanger(s) is 15 psi or less. Open the blow down valve at the bottom of the heat exchanger until a steady flow of steam is observed, then close the blow down valve.
- 7. Adjust pressure pilot (if equipped) so that the pressure downstream of the valve is 15 psi or less. (Refer to the steam valve literature for adjustment instructions.)
- 8. Observe steam traps for operation. Traps are self-priming and should require no further adjustment.
- 9. Check the pressure in the condensate return line, high pressure in this line can reduce or prevent the flow of steam into the heat exchanger resulting in poor performance. Use of a pump or vacuum type condensate return system is recommended. Consult factory if condensate lifting is required. The ability to lift condensate via steam pressure cannot always be assured. Lifting condensate should only be attempted if the steam supply pressure to the heat exchanger is 5 PSI or greater, do not lift condensate on heaters with less than 5 PSI steam supply pressure. Condensate should never be lifted more than 36". Lifting condensate is not recommended, but if lifted, a standard swing check valve with a low-pressure drop must be installed immediately after the condensate outlet of the steam trap or after the outlet of the sub-cooling heat exchanger if equipped.

**IMPORTANT:** Special attention should be paid to noise and leaks. Non-destructive water hammer (noise) as well as noise generated from the expansion of steam is expected during startup. Extraordinary noise generation or leaking piping is reason to shut down the steam supply to the unit.

## 5.3 Operating Reminders

In order to achieve maximum performance from the heat exchanger, the following must be strictly followed:

- Pressures and temperatures must not exceed limits on product decal.
- Heat exchangers should be free of any debris existing in the water.
- Prevent evaporation of fluid on the shell side. Steam or vapor should only flow through the tubes.
- The system should be designed to prevent the heat exchanger from encountering pressure shocks.
- Prevent rapid temperature increases in the heat exchangers. This would include installation of expansion tanks and safety valves into the system.
- Prevent water in heat exchanger and piping from dropping below their freezing point.
- A minimum of 4 gpm recirculation flow through the heater is required at all times (for 140° and 160° heaters; this flow is provided by the intra-skid circulator pump).

## 5.4 Shut Down

- 1. Valve off the supply of steam to the heater.
- 2. Allow a flow of potable water until it runs cold. Then shut off the isolation valve at inlet of heater and then the outlet valve and immediately disconnect power.

#### 6 MAINTENANCE

A preventative maintenance program should be established to assure a long, trouble-free life for the water heater.

WARNING: High Voltage Shock Potential - Turn off all electrical service to the appliance prior to opening water or steam piping and when accessing limit controls, high limit controls, solenoid valves or other high voltage components and wiring. After access, check all connections, close all covers and otherwise secure all electrical wiring and components before restoring electrical service to the appliance. Wires and terminals carry High Voltage (120V). If the electrical service is not turned off and terminals, exposed wires or conducting metals are exposed, property damage, a dangerous shock causing personal injury or death could occur.

#### 6.1 Cleaning the Heat Exchanger

Debris deposited in the heat exchanger will result in an increase in pressure drop, lower temperature difference on the waterside or a high exit temperature on the steam side. Cleaning and flushing can be done without removing the heat exchanger from the system. There are threaded cleaning ports near the hot water outlet and cold-water inlet of the heat exchanger.

The frequency of cleaning (descaling/deliming) will be determined by the rate of scale buildup. Until the appropriate cleaning interval is established, it is recommended that the heat exchanger be internally cleaned every six months or more frequently if higher scaling conditions become apparent. Factors that may affect the rate of scale buildup are the amount of hot water used and the temperature of the water. The more hot water that is used, the more fresh water containing scale-forming compounds is brought into the heat exchanger. As the temperature of water increases, the rate of scale deposition will increase.

The heat exchanger is cleaned by flushing with a suitable food grade acid detergent or biodegradable descaler, available at most plumbing supply outlets:

- Isolate the heat exchanger from the steam and water pressure and allow cooling before cleaning.
- Prepare a 50% dilution of a commercial descaler in open container.
- Place a submersible utility pump into the descaler solution.
- Connect a hose from the pump to the lower cleaning port.
- Connect a second hose from the upper cleaning port to the descaler solution.
- Circulate through the heat exchanger and check the effectiveness of the solution visually and pH test.
- Flush system after cleaning.

When cleaning the heat exchanger, also inspect the plumbing to the temperature control valve for scale build-up. If necessary, de-scale those hot water surfaces.

#### 6.2 Temperature Control Valve

The temperature control valves are factory set and are not adjustable. They should be inspected and internally cleaned every six months or more frequently if needed. Replacement of the o-ring seals is recommended when the valve body is opened to access the thermostatic element for inspection or replacement.

The thermostatic elements utilize wax activated diaphragm and plug construction. A thermostatic element can be checked by immersing it in an agitated bath of water. Never use oil for checking the element. At 10°F to 13°F above the nominal setting, the bypass port B should be closed.

Replacement elements may be ordered from PVI. The element part number and nominal temperature setting are stamped on the flange of the element. If these are not known, provide PVI the complete model number and serial number on the valve nameplate. O-ring seals should be replaced whenever replacing elements. When installing or reinstalling seals, always lubricate them with light food grade plumbing grease to make installing of the element easier, and to prevent leakage from the housing.

#### 6.3 Relief Valves

Relief valves should be manually operated at least once a year and if it fails to freely discharge water or fails to reseat following testing, it must be replaced with a like relief valve. (See installation section for description.)

#### 6.4 Y-strainers

Periodically blow-down the valves on the y-strainers. If necessary, shut down the heater, remove and clean the mesh inside the strainer.

WARNING: Use caution and proper personal protection when opening blow-down valves. Discharge from the blow-down valves on the condensate y-strainers is extremely hot and can flash to steam. Failure to use caution and proper personal protection when opening blow-down valves can result in property damage, instant scalding, other personal injury or death.

## 7 TROUBLESHOOTING SUGGESTIONS

Problem:

- 1. Steam delivery pressure to heat exchanger is low or drops off:
  - a. Cause: Low inlet pressure.
    Solution: Fully open valve. Unclog strainer. Check for low boiler output or upstream blockage and make necessary corrections.
  - b. **Cause:** Steam regulating valve pilot adjustment altered. **Solution:** Readjust to desired operating condition.
  - c. Cause: Steam regulating valve pilot range incorrect.
    Solution: Check nameplate for operating range of pilot. Change pilots if desired operating range is beyond that on existing pilot.
  - Cause: Steam regulating valve undersized.
    Solution: Check valve capacity against the load. If insufficient, increase valve trim or valve size. Refer to the valve manual for instructions.
  - Cause: Piping flow restricted.
    Solution: Calculate the flow velocity and expected friction loss. If excessive, larger inlet and outlet piping are necessary.
  - f. Cause: Bleed orifice missing from steam regulating valve. Solution: Bleed orifice should be in the downstream fitting of the steam valve. Install a new bleed orifice. If a straight fitting was installed in place of the bleed orifice or it is worn, the pilot signal may not fully open the main valve.
  - g. Cause: Steam regulating valve pilot lines blocked.
    Solution: Remove the line to the main valve and the downstream feedback line. If they are not clear, replace them.
  - h. **Cause:** Steam regulating valve pilot malfunction. **Solution:** Refer to the valve manual for instructions on pilot valve repair.
  - i. **Cause:** Steam regulating valve malfunction. **Solution:** Refer to the valve manual for instructions on main valve repair.

#### Problem:

## 2. Steam delivery pressure is high or overrides:

- a. **Cause:** Open valve on steam regulating valve by-pass line. **Solution:** Close the valve.
- b. **Cause:** Steam regulating valve pilot adjustment altered. **Solution:** Readjust to desired operating condition.
- c. **Cause:** Steam regulating valve pilot lines or bleed orifice blocked. **Solution:** Remove, check and replace as required.
- d. **Cause:** Steam regulating valve feedback control line plugged. **Solution:** Remove and clean.
- Cause: Steam regulating valve oversized.
  Solution: Check valve capacity against the load. If excessive, install smaller trim or valve. Refer to the valve manual for instructions.
- f. **Cause:** Steam regulating valve pilot malfunction. **Solution:** Refer to the valve manual for instructions on pilot valve repair.
- g. Cause: Steam regulating valve malfunction.Solution: Refer to the valve manual for instructions on main valve repair.

## Problem:

## 3. Steam delivery pressure erratic:

- a. **Cause**: Pressure drop limits exceeded. Recommended maximum single stage reduction is 100 psi (6.9 bar). **Solution:** Reduce the pressure drop. If drop remains above 100 psi (6.9 bar), consult representative or factory.
- b. **Cause:** Strainer clogged. **Solution:** Clean strainer.
- Cause: Steam regulating valve oversized.
  Solution: Check valve capacity against load. If excessive, install smaller trim or valve. Refer to the valve manual for instructions.
- d. **Cause:** Steam regulating valve pilot lines or bleed orifice blocked. **Solution:** Remove, check and replace as required.
- e. **Cause:** Sensing line poorly located. The feedback signal will be inconsistent if the line is in a turbulent area. **Solution:** Relocate line to a non-turbulent area.
- f. **Cause:** Steam regulating valve pilot malfunction. **Solution:** Refer to the valve manual for instructions on pilot valve repair.
- g. **Cause:** Steam regulating valve malfunction. **Solution:** Refer to the valve manual for instructions on main valve repair.

## Problem:

## 4. Outlet water temperature not constant.

a. Cause: Recirculation inadequate.

**Solution:** In certain conditions (usually at very low flow), inadequate system water recirculation can lead to unstable outlet water temperature. Confirm the recirculation pump is operating properly and is providing a minimum of 4 gpm flow through the heater at all times. Also confirm the heater hot water isolation valve and any other valves in the recirculation line are open.

- b. Cause: Failed temperature control valve.
  Solution: Disassemble valve and replace temperature element and gaskets per valve manufacturer's recommendations.
- c. Cause: Unstable, low or high steam pressure.
  Solution: See causes and solutions to Problem 1, 2 or 3 above.

## Problem:

## 5. Outlet water temperature below setpoint.

- a. Cause: Excessive flow rate.
  Solution: Water flow rate through heat exchanger surpasses its capacity. Check flow rate and compare with heater decal.
- b. Cause: Excessive scale in heat exchanger.
  Solution: Scale on heating surfaces impedes heat transfer. Inspect heat exchanger coil and schedule cleaning.
- c. **Cause:** Failed temperature control valve. **Solution:** Disassemble valve and replace temperature element and gaskets.
- d. Cause: heater hot water isolation valve closed.Solution: Fully open the heater hot water isolation valve.
- e. **Cause:** Solenoid valve closed. **Solution:** Indicated by low water temperature and lowered flow rate. Check if thermostats are open. If so, then an over temperature condition occurred. Shutdown unit and disassemble and inspect temperature control valves. If not, then solenoid valve has failed. Replace.
- f. Cause: Power failure.
  Solution: This closes the solenoid valve also causing loss of hot water pressure. Correct source of power loss.
- g. **Cause:** Low steam delivery pressure. **Solution:** See steam valve section above.
- h. Cause: Steam trap not operating properly.
  Solution: Confirm that trap is backing up condensate in heat exchanger. The heater will sub cool at high flow rates, but at low flow rates the condensate temperature should be over 200°F.

#### i. Cause: Failed heat exchanger.

**Solution:** If the heat exchanger fails in such a way that potable water flows into the steam system, flooding the heat exchanger and trap would impede heat transfer. Such a failure would require heat exchanger replacement.

- j. **Cause:** The high limit shutoff solenoid valve closed.
- **Solution:** If the high limit shutoff solenoid value is energized, but is not open, service or replace the value.
- k. Cause: One of the temperature limiting devices is tripped. Solution: Confirm the limit device located downstream of the secondary thermostatic mixing valve is set 10°F above the outlet water temperature element installed in the heater (i.e. if the outlet water temperature element is 120°F, the adjustable limit set-point is 130°F). The limit device located between the primary and secondary thermostatic mixing valve is fixed at 190°F. Confirm all other causes in this section are confirmed. If the other causes are confirmed and a temperature limit device is still tripped, replace the tripped device.
- Cause: Condensate flow restricted.
  Solution: Check the condensate strainers for clogged condition. Check for restrictions or excessive lift in the condensate return system. If equipped with sub-cooler option, check that condensate is flowing through the sub-cooling heat exchanger.

## Problem:

## 6. Low Outlet Water Pressure.

- a. **Cause:** Scale build-up in heat exchanger. **Solution:** Schedule cleaning of heat exchanger.
- b. Cause: Solenoid valve closed.
  Solution: Check if thermostats are open. If so, then an over temperature condition occurred. Shutdown unit and disassemble and inspect temperature control valves.
- c. **Cause:** Power loss. **Solution:** When there is no power to the unit, the high limit shut-off solenoid valve is closed.

## Problem:

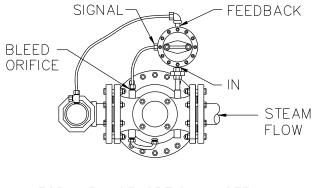
## 7. Water Leaking From the Heat Exchanger Weep-Hole.

a. Cause: A continuous weep-hole leak indicates one or more failed double wall heat exchanger tubes. Confirm the water at the weep-hole is not from an external source.
 Solution: Replace the heat exchanger with a failed tube(s).

## Problem:

## 8. Optional sub-cooler not working.

- a. **Cause:** Faulty circulating pump. **Solution:** Repair or replace pump.
- b. **Cause:** Valves in circulating pump plumbing are closed. **Solution:** Open valves. Confirm that the check valve is operating properly.
- c. Cause: Mixed inlet thermostat has tripped and has shut off the circulating pump. Solution: Check that steam trap is operating properly and repair or replace trap if necessary. Once the mixed inlet thermostat has tripped, the pump will be locked out and it will be necessary to reset the pump circuit by turning the main heater power switch off and then back on.



TOP VIEW OF OPTIONAL	STEAM
PRESSURE REGULATING	VALVE
WITH PILOT LINE	

Since PVI cannot control the use of the appliance, water conditions, or maintenance, the warranty on the Cobrex Instantaneous Water Heater does not cover poor performance, structural failure, or leaking due to an excessive accumulation of scale.

Warranty Forms Ship Separately with Each Product

MODEL NUMBER:	
SERIAL NUMBER:	
INSTALLATION DATE	:

PVI INDUSTRIES • Fort Worth, TX • 1-800-433-5654 • www.pvi.com