

Featherman Scalding Instructions – please read before operation

General Info

The scald is the critical operation in feather removal and you now have a machine designed to make it simple for you.

Hook your rubber supply line hose to a propane tank. It is a brass, reverse-threaded connection. Do not over-tighten. Save the provided plastic cover on the hose end to protect your gas hose between uses.

Hand tighten the 1" PVC valve provided for your drain port.

You are ready to fill with water. You may either fill with cold water and allow the water to heat overnight (it will take several hours to heat from 55 to 147 degrees) or fill it from your house supply hot water (usually 130 to 140 degrees) the morning of processing.

Do not overfill the tank with water. Four birds will displace several gallons and there is no need to have the tank too full anyway. Four to six inches from the top is an adequate level. The water must at least cover the holes of the temperature sensing unit (about half way up) for the machine to operate properly.

Your scalding is preset to 147 degrees. This means the water temperature will cycle between about 145 and 150 degrees.

Experience thus far indicates the scalding can maintain at least a 70-bird per hour rate. At this rate the burner never shuts down. It is very helpful to have a thermometer constantly reading your scalding water temperature. This will help you know whether to lengthen or shorten the scalding time a little. In either case, pulling wing feathers will soon make you an expert on when the chickens are ready to be plucked.

There are several factors which affect how fast the scalding will heat up initially and how fast it will reheat after scalding birds. The tarp is supplied to prevent heat loss out of the top while heating up (and to keep your scalding clean between uses). Locate your scalding in a draft-free area. If this is impossible, do your best to block the draft coming in to the burner. Drafts can make a big difference in temperature. Use cinder blocks or tiles, not wood, to block air flow to the burner.

Do not scald until the temperature is at least 143 degrees Fahrenheit. A little patience pays big dividends here. However, if you do scald at a low temperature or for too short a time period and the feathers are not picking properly, simply re-scald the birds for a shorter period of time and pick again. It won't hurt the birds. You probably won't get a perfect pick, but anything beats wasting time on the gutting table pulling feathers.

Start Up

Plug in to your normal 110V current ONLY AFTER LIGHTING PILOT. Do not pass electric cord under the scalding.

Lighting the pilot flame: Turn the gas Control Valve knob to "Pilot" and push it in and hold it. It will take 60 to 90 seconds to purge air out of the gas lines and Control Valve on the first use. After 60 to 90 seconds push the Red Igniter Button. Look to see if the pilot is lit. If not, wait a few more seconds, and push the Red Igniter Button again. After allowing the pilot flame to heat the thermocouple sensor for 30 seconds you may release the Control Valve knob and the pilot will stay lit by itself. Turn the Control Valve knob from "Pilot" to "On." If the burner does not light and the pilot flame goes out, repeat the process. If your unit is not equipped with an igniter use a match or lighter to light the pilot flame.

Cautions

Remember you are dealing with gas, water and electricity. Think safety first in the way you set up and during operation. Keep electric cords and gas lines out of the way. Keep any other electric appliances away from the scald water.

The built-in chimney improves airflow and retains more heat. Position your scalders so that the chimney cannot be touched accidentally. THE CHIMNEY WILL GET VERY HOT AND CAN CAUSE SERIOUS BURNS.

Do not operate your scalders without water in the tank.

General Operation

We recommend scalding up to four birds at a time for about 1 minute at 147 degrees F. Birds pick differently between batches but this is the ideal starting point. Adjust accordingly from there. Add a few tablespoons of dish detergent or Shaklees Basic H Soap to help the water penetrate initially and add more as needed during operation.

Dunk the birds in and out of the water 8 to 10 times depending on water temperature. You may do this by hand or with a homemade lever and shackle or with one of the Featherman dunking mechanisms we provide (please call 660/684-6035 for info). Or you may simply stir the birds with a paddle at a lower temperature. Be sure to expose ALL the bird to the scald water. Experience is the best teacher here. After 150 or 200 birds the scald water must be changed.

Clean Up

To clean up, simply drain the scalders, scrub with soapy water and rinse. Don't spray the controls. Cover with the provided tarp and store under cover. Be sure to close your gas valve if you leave the tank attached. If you detach the gas tank, use the provided plastic cap to protect the exposed end of your scalders' gas line from debris or insects.

Your Featherman Scalders is designed to give you many years of reliable service. It is fully guaranteed for one year and our phone number is on the nameplate should you have any questions or comments.

Good luck and happy scalding!