ABOUT YOUR "DIPPER"

The "Chicken Dipper" scalding vat has a thermostatically controlled 1500 watt 120 volt-heating unit. The heating element is a "low watt density," 120 volt, 4 bolt flange element available from most plumbing and electrical suppliers.

The thermostat has infinite setting from 120 to 180 degrees. We set it at the factory to 155 (Those with an A B C D rating, C = 155 degrees). It will take about 35 minutes for cold water to reach 155. Water will heat faster if a price of cardboard or Styrofoam is placed over the top of the fiberglass vat.

If the dipper doesn't heat check the following:

Rarely does a thermostat go bad, but a easy way to test is to slide the cover off and attach the black and white wire of the cord directly to the heating element. If the element works, then the thermostat is defective.

Elements can burn out. The factory has repaired units where the element had lasted over twenty years with frequent use but others last less than this.

Elements will burn out in a few seconds if not covered with water. Make sure the element is always immersed in water when the unit is plugged into an outlet. The element will last longer and heat more effectively if it is kept clean. A scouring pad or steel wool works well to clean off burned on dirt.

For those who require quicker heating, a second element can be installed. This does usually require electricity from a second circuit as each element draws over 12 amps of electricity.

If an extension cord is used, it must be at least 14 gauge if under 10 ft, and 12 gauge if over 10 ft long.

A 240 volt, 4500 watt element can be substituted and requires a 240-volt cord. This generates hot water three times faster than the usual element.

If damage occurs to the vat, it can be repaired with fiberglass repair. Follow instructions on the repair kit. Usually this includes grinding out the crack and filling it with a mixture of glass fiber, resin and hardener. An alternative is to clean the area and fill with an epoxy mix or a material such as JB Weld.