



9.1 Using the Heat Equation

READ


You can solve real-world heat and temperature problems using the following equation:

HEAT EQUATION

$$\text{Heat energy (J)} - E = m C_p (T_2 - T_1)$$

Mass (kg)
Specific heat ($\frac{\text{J}}{\text{kg}^\circ\text{C}}$)
Change in temperature ($^\circ\text{C}$)

Below is a table that provides the specific heat of six everyday materials.

Material	Specific Heat (J/kg °C)	Material	Specific Heat (J/kg °C)
water (pure)	4,184	concrete	880
aluminum	897	gold	129
silver	235	wood	1,700

EXAMPLE

- How much heat does it take to raise the temperature of 10 kg of water by 10 °C?

Solution:

Find the specific heat of water from the table above: 4,184 J/kg °C. Plug the values into the equation.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Thermal Energy (J)} &= 10 \text{ kg} \times 10 \text{ }^\circ\text{C} \times 4,184 \text{ J/kg} \cdot \text{ }^\circ\text{C} \\
 &= 418,400 \text{ joules}
 \end{aligned}$$

PRACTICE

Use the specific heat table to answer the following questions. Don't forget to show your work.

- How much heat does it take to raise the temperature of 0.10 kg of gold by 25 °C?
- How much heat does it take to raise the temperature of 0.10 kg of silver by 25 °C?
- How much heat does it take to raise the temperature of 0.10 kg of aluminum by 25 °C?
- Which one of the three materials above would cool down fastest after the heat was applied? Explain.
- A coffee maker heats 2 kg of water from 15 °C to 100 °C. How much thermal energy was required?
- The Sun warms a 100-kg slab of concrete from 20 °C to 25 °C. How much thermal energy did it absorb?
- 5,000 joules of thermal energy were applied to 1-kg aluminum bar. What was the temperature increase?
- In the 1920's, many American homes did not have hot running water from the tap. Bath water was heated on the stove and poured into a basin. How much thermal energy would it take to heat 30 kg of water from 15 °C to a comfortable bath temperature of 50 °C?