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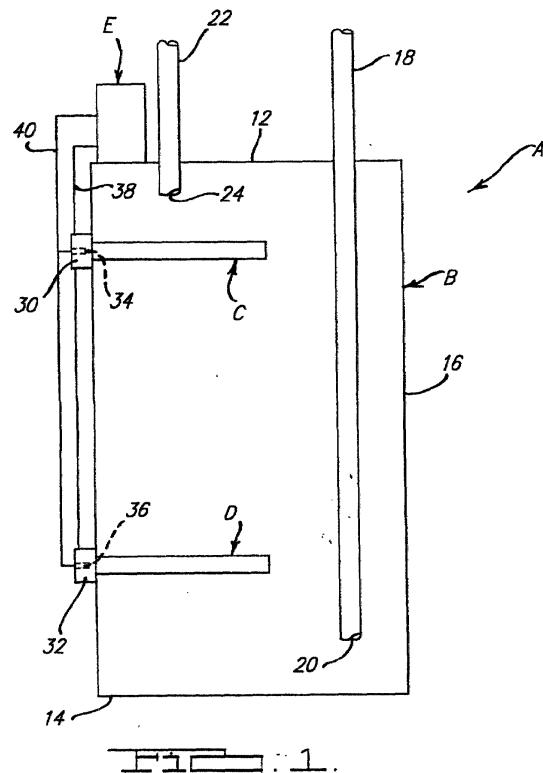
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### (54) Control and method for electric water heater operation

(57) A control and method for preventing dry start of an electric water heater provides activation of a bottom heating element for a short time and then senses the temperature to detect the absence or presence of water around the bottom heating element. In the absence of water, the control prevents further activation of the heating element. If water is present, the bottom heating element is activated to heat the water to a set point temperature. An additional upper heating element is activatable only after its temperature falls a predetermined amount below the set point temperature. The control may also include a programmable time having the ability to vary the turn off set point temperature in a predetermined manner during different times of a given day and/or week as well as to provide a convenient way to maintain a reduced turn off set point temperature for an extended period of time.





## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 6820

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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X	US 5 808 277 A (LADHA NIZAR ET AL) 15 September 1998 (1998-09-15) * abstract; claim 1; figures 1,2 * * column 1, line 33,36,37 * * column 2, line 10 *	1	
X	EP 0 672 374 A (ZIP HEATERS AUST PTY LTD) 20 September 1995 (1995-09-20) * abstract; figure 4 *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH		23 October 2002	García Moncayo, O
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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