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## Reliance 9000429-045 Heavy Duty Heating Element Wrench Instruction Manual

### 1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Reliance 9000429-045 is a 5-inch, zinc-plated, heavy-duty wrench designed for the removal and installation of water heater heating elements. This tool is specifically engineered to fit all standard screw-in elements and 1-1/2 inch nuts, providing access to offsets where larger adjustable wrenches may not fit. It is designed for use with a screwdriver for added leverage.



Image 1: Reliance 9000429-045 Heavy Duty Heating Element Wrench in its retail packaging.

## 2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when working with water heaters and electrical components. Failure to follow these safety guidelines may result in personal injury, electric shock, or property damage.

- **Disconnect Power:** Before beginning any work on the water heater, always turn off the electrical power supply to the unit at the circuit breaker or fuse box. Verify power is off using a voltage tester.
- **Turn Off Water Supply:** Close the cold water inlet valve to the water heater.
- **Drain Water Heater:** Connect a hose to the drain valve at the bottom of the water heater and drain the tank completely. Open a hot water faucet in your home to allow air into the tank and facilitate draining.
- **Wear Protective Gear:** Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses and work gloves.
- **Allow Cooling:** Ensure the water heater has cooled down sufficiently before attempting to remove or install elements to prevent burns.
- **Professional Assistance:** If you are unsure about any step or uncomfortable performing the task, consult a qualified plumber or electrician.

### 3. SETUP

The Reliance 9000429-045 wrench is ready for use out of the packaging. No assembly is required.

- 1. Inspect the Wrench:** Before each use, visually inspect the wrench for any signs of damage, cracks, or deformation. Do not use a damaged tool.
- 2. Prepare Work Area:** Ensure the area around the water heater is clear and well-lit. Have a sturdy screwdriver available to use with the wrench for leverage.
- 3. Verify Element Size:** Confirm that the heating element nut you intend to service is a 1-1/2 inch hex, which this wrench is designed to fit.

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### 4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

#### 4.1. Removing a Heating Element

1. Complete all safety steps outlined in Section 2 (Disconnect Power, Turn Off Water, Drain Tank).
2. Locate the heating element(s) on your water heater. They are typically covered by a protective plate. Remove any covers to expose the element and its wiring.
3. Disconnect the electrical wires from the element terminals. Note their positions for reinstallation.
4. Place the hex end of the Reliance 9000429-045 wrench squarely over the heating element's hex nut. Ensure it is fully seated.
5. Insert a sturdy screwdriver through the side hole of the wrench to act as a handle for leverage.
6. Turn the screwdriver counter-clockwise to loosen the element nut. Apply steady, firm pressure.
7. Once the element is loose, remove the wrench and unscrew the element by hand. Be prepared for any residual water.



Image 2: Angled view of the wrench, highlighting the hex opening for the element nut and the side hole for a screwdriver.

#### 4.2. Installing a Heating Element

1. Ensure the new heating element has a new gasket or O-ring properly seated.
2. Carefully hand-thread the new element into the tank opening. Ensure it threads smoothly to avoid cross-threading.
3. Once hand-tight, place the hex end of the Reliance 9000429-045 wrench squarely over the element's hex nut.
4. Insert a sturdy screwdriver through the side hole of the wrench.
5. Turn the screwdriver clockwise to tighten the element. Tighten firmly but do not overtighten, as this can damage the element or the tank.
6. Reconnect the electrical wires to the element terminals as noted during removal.
7. Close the drain valve, open the cold water inlet valve, and allow the tank to fill completely. Open a hot water faucet to purge air from the system.
8. Check for any leaks around the newly installed element. If leaks are present, tighten slightly more.
9. Once confident there are no leaks, restore electrical power to the water heater.

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## 5. MAINTENANCE

Proper care will extend the life of your Reliance heating element wrench.

- **Cleaning:** After each use, wipe the wrench clean with a dry cloth to remove any water, dirt, or debris.
- **Storage:** Store the wrench in a dry environment to prevent rust and corrosion.
- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect the wrench for any signs of wear, bending, or damage. Replace the tool if it shows significant wear or damage that could compromise its effectiveness or safety.

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## 6. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Wrench Does Not Fit Element Nut:**

Ensure the heating element nut is a standard 1-1/2 inch hex. Some specialized or older elements may have different sizes. Verify the element size before attempting to use the wrench.

- **Element is Stuck or Difficult to Loosen:**

Ensure you are applying sufficient and steady leverage using a sturdy screwdriver through the side hole. For heavily corroded or seized elements, applying a penetrating oil (e.g., WD-40) and allowing it to soak for some time may help. Avoid excessive force that could strip the nut or damage the water heater tank. If the element remains stuck, professional assistance may be required.

- **Wrench Slips on Element Nut:**

Ensure the wrench is fully and squarely seated on the hex nut before applying any torque. If the nut is rounded or severely corroded, the wrench may not get a proper grip. In such cases, specialized tools for stripped nuts or professional help might be necessary.

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## 7. SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer	Reliance
Part Number	9000429-045
Item Model Number	9000429-045

<b>Item Weight</b>	12.8 ounces
<b>Product Dimensions</b>	9 x 3 x 2 inches
<b>Size</b>	Pack of 1
<b>Color</b>	Silver/Pewter
<b>Material</b>	Zinc Plated Metal
<b>Head Style</b>	Hex
<b>Included Components</b>	Reliance 9000429-045 Heavy Duty Heating Element Wrench

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## 8. WARRANTY INFORMATION

This Reliance 9000429-045 Heavy Duty Heating Element Wrench is covered by the standard manufacturer's warranty. For specific details regarding warranty coverage, terms, and conditions, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or contact Reliance customer support directly. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

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## 9. SUPPORT

For technical assistance, replacement parts, or further inquiries regarding the Reliance 9000429-045 Heavy Duty Heating Element Wrench, please contact Reliance customer support. Contact information can typically be found on the product packaging or the official Reliance website. When contacting support, please have your product model number (9000429-045) available.