

WATER HEATER PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Flush sediment and bacteria while completing maintenance checks at every step.

First, shut off power and/or gas. Turn off the breaker on electric water heaters or shut off the gas supply on gas units before starting any maintenance.

1. Visually inspect unit for leaks, rust, and corrosion.
2. Inspect power supply connections and gas supply line and/or shutoff valve.
3. Check drain pan for signs of water or corrosion.
4. Open the temperature and relief (T&P) valve, ensure water flows unobstructed from the overflow pipe, and then fully close it.
5. If equipped, press the valve on the expansion tank and ensure no water comes out.
6. Examine thermostat(s), heating elements, and thermal cutoff switch, if available.
7. On gas water heaters, inspect flue baffle and draft diverter or power vent.
8. Cool water in tank by opening hot water faucets until water runs cold.
9. Close the cold water inlet valve.
10. Close all but one hot water faucet so a vacuum doesn't form.
11. Connect a transfer pump and hose to the drain valve.
12. Allow water to flow outside or to a floor drain with a strainer.
13. Open cold water inlet valve to begin flush, breaking up sediment.
14. Flush several times until water is clear.
15. Close the cold water inlet valve again.
16. Inspect the anode rod and dip tube for signs of disintegration.
17. Remove the anode rod.
18. Close the drain valve.
19. At the anode opening, add one gallon of bleach for every 25 gallons of tank capacity.
20. Replace the anode rod.
21. Open the cold water inlet valve to fill the tank.
22. Open all hot water fixtures, including running dishwashers and washing machines.
23. Once you've detected chlorine at all fixtures, leave system undisturbed for one hour.
24. Close all but one faucet, drain the tank again, and allow it to refill.
25. After 15 minutes, open all fixtures again to flush the chlorine from the system.
26. Continue until you can no longer detect a chlorine smell at any fixture.
27. Refill the unit and restart per manufacturer recommendations.
28. As the unit starts, ensure smooth function of pilot light, thermocouple, and burner control assembly on gas water heaters.
29. Check flammable vapor sensor on gas water heaters, if installed, for error codes and clean if needed.

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