

Tips On Protecting Your Hot Water



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If you are like most people, draining your water heater probably is not on your weekend "To Do List." Typically, most people never think about their water heater until they run out of hot water while in the shower.

But just like other household appliances, your water heater operates more efficiently and lasts longer when it is properly maintained. By draining and flushing your water heater on a regular basis, you'll be ensuring you stay in hot water.

Flushing and draining your water heater removes mineral deposits and sediment that tend to accumulate at the bottom of the water heater and along the inner walls of the unit, causing it to work longer and harder. In actuality, it is recommended by manufacturers that water heaters are drained once a year.

If you haven't drained your water heater in the last 12 months, it is a relatively simple process if you follow the proper safety precautions. To help, here are the step-by-step instructions.



HOW TO DRAIN YOUR WATER HEATER

(For general information only. Please refer to your manufacturer's instructions for possible variations and safety considerations.)

STEP 1: *(For electrical water heaters)* Shut off electricity to the water heater at the circuit breaker of the fuse box.

WARNING: Electricity must be off at all times while the tank is empty.

(For gas water heaters) Turn the gas control knob to the off position. If you are not familiar with procedures for relighting your gas water heater, please consult a plumber or natural gas supplier.

STEP 2: Allow water in the tank to cool at least one hour.

STEP 3: Shut off the cold water supply to the water heater, using the cold water shut-off valve *(see illustration)*.

STEP 4: Open the hot water faucet in your kitchen or bathroom. Leave open while draining the water heater.

STEP 5: Connect a hose to the drain valve on the bottom of the water heater *(see illustration)*. Route hose to an adequate drain area.

STEP 6: Open the drain valve *(see illustration)*.

CAUTION: Drain water is hot. Avoid direct contact.

STEP 7: When the water heater has completely drained, open cold water supply valve to the water heater for 30 to 60 seconds, then shut it off.

STEP 8: Check water coming out of drain hose for clarity.

STEP 9: Repeat steps 7 and 8 until water is clear.

STEP 10: Once flush water is clear, your heater is clean.

STEP 11: Close drain valve on bottom of tank and remove drain hose.

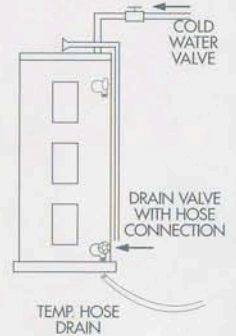
STEP 12: Open cold water supply valve *(reverse step 3)*. As your water heater fills, you will notice air escaping from your kitchen or bathroom faucets. Leave these outlets open until there is a steady flow of water.

STEP 13: Close kitchen or bathroom faucets.

STEP 14: *(For electrical water heaters)* Turn on electricity to water heater at circuit breaker of fuse box. Hot water should be available in 30 to 45 minutes.

(For gas water heaters) Follow manufacturer's lighting instructions to restart gas water heater.

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER



Georgetown County Water and Sewer District makes no warranties or representations and assumes no liability for physical injury or property damage in any way related to or arising out of the above procedures or the draining of your water heater. Always consult your manufacturer's instructions for safety procedures before draining your water heater.