

# 8 Water Heater Safety Tips

Properly keeping ones water heater is vital not so it works to its full capacity and can conserve some energy money, but for security concerns too. Yes, it can explode – it does not occur too commonly for residents, but certainly this is something that we do not wish to have occur to you!

## Vents

Venting can be sort of technical however we will review the basics right here. The vent ought to be the same diameter as the draft diverter of the water heater tank. It is expected to go up and out (for atmospherically vented heaters). Not other directs like up, down, up and out. For direct-vent water heaters, the vent need to head out a side wall. As for power-vent heaters, the fan blows the fumes out, so there is some flexibility in the direction they are vented.

Any roofing or wall that the vent goes through must be a double wall. The single wall pass throughs ought to be screwed with 3 screws per area. If these essentials are not followed, the vents can fall apart with time and carbon monoxide can cause significant problems within ones house. Of course we do not want that to happen!

The only other interested in venting is that of [backdrafting](#). The fumes can consume the vents with acid condensation. If enough of this gets on cold piping and the water heater it will not be a great circumstance for an appropriately working water heater. If the fumes go back inside the rather of being correctly vented outside, the fumes can enter the living locations of the house. Soot problems can occur as well.

## Dielectric Connectors

The steel water heater is connected to cooper pipes by the dielectric connectors. When two these two metals are put together in water electrolysis takes place. The procedure rusts one metal away to safeguard the other. This process is vital in securing the inside of the water heater. Examination for leaks need to be done where the connections are made.

## Temperature and Pressure Relief Valve

This is kinda of an essential part of the water heater, for it helps make sure the darn thing does not explode under pressure if the temperature level goes beyond the correct limits the water heater is created for. Once a year (a minimum of) the [T&P valve](#) must be inspected to ensure, it is working effectively, for they can be susceptible to failure. Just pulling up on the handle water needs to stream freely out and stop when the handle is released. If it simply runs or trickles, or does nothing at all, it will should be changed.

The drain lines for the T&P line must not be directed up, because water doesn't stream uphill too well. See to it it goes down and or out please. If water is running out the drain line frequently, it is the sign of something incorrect too. It can be one of numerous various things that we will not enter into here – simply get in touch with a regional plumbing professional please.

## Earthquake Straps

Yep, even if you do not live in an earthquake zone and are needed to have these on ones water heater, it is an excellent concept to do so. It looks like many all brand-new homes in sub-divisions these days have the water heater in the garage. Yes, there is typically a concrete curb in front of it so one does not drive an automobile into it, but things can accidentally knock it over so be safe and strap that say thanks to in.

## Temperature Setting

It appears most domestic water heater tanks have settings of warm – hot – really hot ... and not degree markings. Some

“ideas” on saving energy in the house especially in the winter season time, state to decrease the setting on the tank to 120 degrees. That’s excellent for conserving energy but legionella germs, which causes Legionnaire’s condition can grow at 120 degrees. By breathing in the mist from the water in the shower, one can inhale the germs. Search for a medium in between 130 and 120 degrees. Above 130 degrees is technically a scalding temperature so be mindful.

### **Anode Rods**

These normally are made from aluminum and there is nothing incorrect with that in concept, though we suggest making use of magnesium ones. Let’s state for whatever reason there is some kind of emergency or catastrophe where one lives and one needed to use the water in the water heater for drinking water (since great deals of emergency readiness individuals suggest doing so). The water that comes out of the drain valve is the water at the bottom of the tank. If one has aluminum [anodes](#), that water will be packed with aluminum substances, which is bad for the body. It is bad for the stomach, intestinal tract and joints.

The anodes assist with rust security and are important in extending the life of the water heater. They can also assist with odor problems with the water. Overall, magnesium anodes simply work much better for a great deal of various reasons like the wellness perks, let develop of sediment, a quieter water heater, and they have the tendency to work more competent with softened water.

### **Drain Valve**

Ok, just inspect it a minimum of yearly to ensure the darn thing opens and works. And it is excellent to drain and flush the tank a minimum of once a year anyhow (something you of course are doing already). If for some reason one has to make use of the water throughout a catastrophe or drain it to quite a loud tank and have not drained it routinely, and it does not open, it will take longer to remedy the problem you are at first attempting to fix.

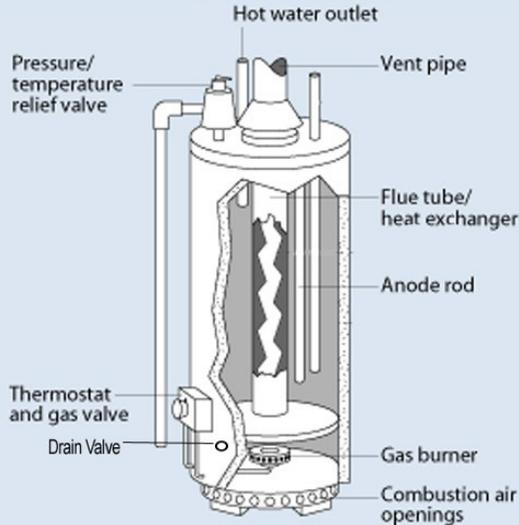
### **Combustion Changer Hatch**

Considering that gas and oil water heaters breathe the air sucked in from beneath, combust with it and exhale it, it is necessary to keep the location around it, specifically below the water heater, clean and swept. If it is not burning correctly, it can cause composing concerns (mentioned above), in addition to combustion and fume troubles and possibly be a fire threat. Some of examining the chamber and how the flame burns is objective so we are not going to go into a great deal of detail here. it is essential to see if the combustion chamber roof has a lot of rust or water markings or is black in color. These are not a great indicator at all. One must see some blue flame at the bottom when it burns and orange and yellow at the top, nevertheless, the yellow must not be extremely high up. One need to see grey metal, some white condensation marks are ok.

We have put together an infographic to highlight the information above:

# Water Heater Safety Maintenance

Proper water heater maintenance can save one money and prolong the life of the unit. However,, it can help ensure the dam thing doesn't blow up too!



## Vents

Depending on the type of heater the vents should be routed a specific direction. They should be the same diameter as the draft diverter too. If the vents are not routed correctly and/or are not inspected to make sure they are intacked over time, backdrafting will bring dangerous fumes into the home

## T&P Valve

This is the important part that makes sure the dam tank doesn't blow up. Check it once a year - lift the handle and water should flow freely and stop when the handle is let go of. If it just runs or drips or does nothing at all, it needs replaced. They can wear out unfortunately.

## Anode Rod

These should be checked to make sure they are still in good shape. Most are made of aluminum which in theory is ok, but magnesium ones are more safe for health reasons. Too much aluminum is bad for the stomach, joints and intestines so becare if one needs to drink the water right from the tank in an emergency situation and running water is not working.

## Thermostat

Most residential tanks are not marked with degrees, just hot, warm, hotter...Many suggest setting it at 120 degrees to save money but legionella bacteria can grow at this temp. Try to keep it between 120 and 130 degrees.

## Drain Valve

It is a good habit to drain and flush the tank once a year, so this will help make sure the drain valve opens ok and isn't stuck. If the tank makes noises, it is probably because it has not been drained and their is sediment buildup inside the tank.

## Combustion Air Openings

Since air is sucked in from underneath, keep the area around the heater swept and clean. Drafting issues can occur if the burner is not burning properly.

Created by Phil Luther  
Check it out at [HotWaterHeaterMedic.com](http://HotWaterHeaterMedic.com)

