

Tips for Flushing Your Home Water Heater

Sediment and minerals that collect at the bottom of a water heater can affect water quality and the heater's efficiency, resulting in it taking longer to heat up water.

PLEASE NOTE: These are standard basic steps for this process. If you have any questions or problems, please consult with a plumber.

1. Turn the cold water valve (water supply) off.
2. For electric water heaters, turn the power (at the circuit box) off.
3. For natural gas water heaters, turn the gas valve on the tank to the pilot position or the lowest temperature setting.
4. Attach a garden hose to the drain valve (water spigot) at the bottom of the water heater and direct the hose towards the basement floor drain or outside.
5. Open a hot water tap on a floor higher than your water tank.
6. Open the hot water tank drain valve. Let the water run out the garden hose. This can take 20 to 60 minutes.
7. When all the water has drained from the tank, turn on the cold water valve at the top of the tank three times for 10-15 seconds to mix the sediment and help drain it out of the garden hose. Open and close the drain valve each of the three times to get rid of all sediment or use compressed air.
8. Repeat steps 1 - 7 until clear water drains from the hose, then close the tank drain valve.
9. Turn on the cold water valve at the top of the tank. When the tank is full, turn the hot water tap off. If you opened a hot water tap on a floor higher, turn it off.
10. If you have a gas heater, turn the gas valve knob back on.
11. If you have an electric heater, turn the power back on.
12. Check the drain valve at the bottom of the water tank for leaking. If it's leaking, open and close the drain valve a few times in case sediment is blocking the drain.