



TECHNICAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT
Technical Service Bulletin
1-800-432-8373



Standing Pilot Gas Water Heater Maintenance

1. ROUTINE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

Properly maintained, your water heater will provide years of dependable trouble free service. It is suggested that a regular routine maintenance program be established and followed by the user. It is further recommended that a periodic inspection of the thermostat, burner, relief valve, internal flueway and venting system should be made by service personnel qualified in gas appliance repair.

- A. The water heater's internal flue must be inspected annually to be certain it is clean by removing the draft hood and flue baffle. When reinstalling the flue baffle make certain it is hung securely by its hanger at the top of the flue way. Remove any scale that may have fallen on the burner or floor shield. Reinstall the draft hood.

Inspect gas venting system to make certain vent connector from draft hood to chimney is properly positioned and securely attached and inspect chimney. Replace any corroded through vent connector and remove any obstruction in vent connector or chimney.

- B. Visually inspect the burner annually while firing and pilot burner flame with main burner off. (Refer to your use and care manual for proper flame pattern.) If any unusual burner operation is noted the water heater should be shut off until qualified service assistance can be obtained.

For cleaning, remove the burner from the water heater. A vacuum cleaner can be used on the burner and floor shield inside the water heater. The burner can also be cleaned by scrubbing with mild detergent.



For your safety, cleaning of main burner should be performed ONLY by qualified service personnel, as it involves disconnection of gas piping and leak testing.

- C. The area near the water heater must be kept free of flammable liquids such as gasoline or paint thinners, adhesives and other combustible materials.
- D. For adequate combustion (proper burner operation) and ventilation, make certain the flow of air to the water heater is not obstructed.
- E. At least once a year, lift and release the lever handle on the temperature pressure relief valve, located near the top of the water heater, to make certain the valve operates freely and allow several gallons to flush through discharge line. Make certain the discharged water is directed to an open drain.



Before manually operating the relief valve, make certain no one will be exposed to the danger of coming in contact with the hot water released by this valve. The water may be hot enough to create a SCALD hazard. The water released should be directed to a suitable drain to prevent injury or damage.

NOTE: If the temperature and pressure relief valve on the water heater discharges periodically, this may be due to thermal expansion in a "Closed" water system. Contact the water supplier or your plumbing contractor on how to correct this. DO NOT plug the relief valve outlet.



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- F. A water heater's tank can act as a settling basin for solids suspended in the water. It is, therefore, not uncommon for hard water deposits to accumulate in the bottom of the tank. Deposits should not be allowed to accumulate as this can affect the service life of the water heater. It is suggested that a few quarts of water be drained from the water heater's tank every month. If sufficient hard water deposits accumulate, a rumbling or pounding sound can occur. There is no danger involved and the efficiency of the water heater is not seriously affected, but the noise can be annoying. Your plumbing contractor should be contacted to clean the tank of these deposits.
 - G. Rapid closing of faucets or solenoid valves in automatic water using appliances can cause a pounding "water hammer" sound. "Water hammer" can be described as a banging noise heard in a water pipe following an abrupt alteration of the flow with resulting pressure surges. Strategically located risers in the water pipe system can be used to minimize the problem. Also water hammer arresting devices are usually available from your plumber or local plumbing supply store.
2. **ANODE ROD INSPECTION**-The anode rod should be removed from the water heater's tank annually for inspection and replaced when more than 6" of core wire is exposed at either end of the rod. Refer to your Use and Care Manual for anode rod location. Make certain cold water supply is turned off before removing anode rod.