

Water heater makes sound

Can you hear the noise by putting ear on faucet? Or is the noise definitely at the tank?

Turn off power to tank and see if noise stops. All water heaters make noise when heating water > from bubbly fizzing sound, to rumbling, and sometimes whistling. Electric: Clean

elements with white vinegar. Gas and electric: [How to clean sediment out of tank](#)

All water heaters expand when heating takes place, causing slight noise.

When incoming water is colder than usual, condensation can cause dripping from incoming cold water line.

Cold water inside gas water heater can cause dripping water inside combustion area.

Improper vented gas water heater can have condensation inside the vent pipe that can drip down and make sound.

Heat pump water heaters have fan and condenser, and will make noise similar to dehumidifier or wall air conditioner.

Check for drips. Turn off all water taps and put ear on Hot pipe, then Cold pipe, then TP overflow.

One fellow had a sound of water and his tank would run short of hot water: turned out he had broken pipe under the slab.

If overflow pipe goes into a drain, or through the wall, you might not see a leak.

Gently raise and then lower TP valve, and check again, replace TP valve every 6-8 years.

Turn off water supply valve and listen to pipes again.

Are pipes insulated? Maybe insulating pipes would stop the noise. Electric water heater can be totally insulated except for TP valve. Gas water heater, keep insulation 12" away from top of heater and flue pipe.

If water heater has factory-supplied heat traps, they can cause a noise when water flows:

Page 9-11 http://waterheatertimer.org/pdf/1b_acker-heat-traps.pdf

<http://waterheatertimer.org/images/Bradford-white-Heat-Traps.jpg>

Remove factory-supplied heat traps and use flex pipes, or copper pipes to make heat traps, and save \$8 per year on electric heater.

<http://waterheatertimer.org/images/Heat-trap-install-900.jpg>

<http://waterheatertimer.org/images/Falcon-stainless-240.jpg>

Check main water pipe close to where it enter house, and see if sound is outdoors and coming in along the pipe.

Turn off main shut-off at street or in well house and see if sound continues.

Is the sound coming from timer?

By pass timer, and see if noise continues (I don't know how a timer would cause the noise unless metal conduit connects between timer and water heater shell)

Do you have recirculation system? Unplug recirc pump and see if sound is still audible.

What is water heater sitting on? Sound can travel through hard materials. Set tank on blue styrafoam.

Put ear, or stethoscope, on walls and surrounding surfaces to see if there is sound broadcasting from somewhere besides water heater.

Is the water heater grounded, and both pipes bonded together with 6 gauge wire?

<http://waterheatertimer.org/images/Bradford-White-di-electric-ground-600.jpg> All metal

acts as antennae. One guy had large outdoor antennae grounded to water heater, and would get noise on the pipe, and coincidentally his water heaters would rust out quickly because the antenna was causing stray current corrosion and pipes were not correctly bonded and grounded. I recall, he installed separate ground on antenna, noise stopped, and water heaters no longer rusted out.

One fellow noticed that two metal surfaces touched, and when hot water expanded, it caused noise by rubbing against other metal. He sanded space between metal with dremel tool, and noise stopped.

Put insulation between parts that rub together.