



Home Tips®



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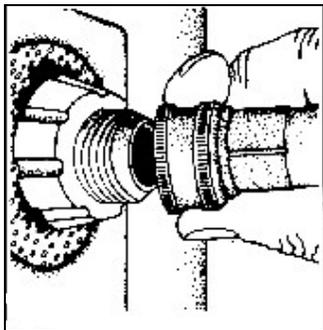
Q & A

Water Heater Installation?

We want to replace our gas water heater before it starts to leak and would like to know if there are any pointers in installing a new one?

Most gas water heaters will last approximately ten years. Replacing the water heater will reduce the chance for a tank rupture.

The first place to start is by removing your old heater. Turn off the gas and close the cold water inlet valve. Attach a garden hose to the drain valve located at the bottom of the heater. Be careful where you point the end of the hose. Unless you let the heater cool, the water will be quite hot and could damage plants or shrubs. Opening the T&P valve will speed the draining



by allowing air into the tank. When the tank is empty, disconnect the vent hood, water lines, T&P pipe and the gas pipe. Now the old water heater is ready to be removed and disposed of.

If the water heater is located in the garage or basement, it should be installed on a stand that will raise the burner at least 18" above the floor. This is needed to prevent the pilot or burner from accidentally igniting combustible fumes like gasoline or paint thinner. Vapors are usually heavier than air and can travel close to the floor.

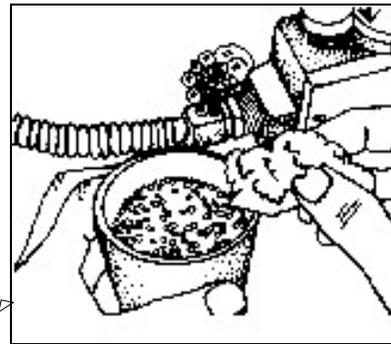
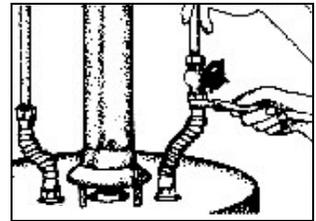
Next, reconnect the vent pipe. Be careful to keep the proper clearances for the type of pipe used. If using single wall pipe, a minimum of 6" is required between the pipe and any combustible material. If double wall or "Type B" pipe is used, a



minimum of 1" clearance is required.

When reconnecting the water pipes, flexible pipe connectors make it easy to connect the old water pipes to the heater.

Rarely are the water heater connections in the same spot as the old one and rerouting hard copper pipe can be difficult. Flexible connectors are simple to use since they bend easily. Be sure to use pipe compound or Teflon tape on the threads.



Be very careful in attaching the gas pipe. Use Teflon tape on the threads and tighten securely. Check the connection by turning on the gas and testing for leaks. Use dishwashing detergent solution on the joints and check for bubbles.

Never test for gas leaks with a flame. If any leaks are found, turn off the gas and repeat the process.

The last item to install is the most important. The temperature and pressure relief valve. If the thermostat goes bad inside the water heater, the burner will continue to heat the water. Since the water is under pressure, the temperature can rise to as much as 250 degrees and can create enough pressure to cause the water heater to explode and it could explode with the power of two pounds of dynamite. To prevent this from happening, an external safety valve is installed called a temperature and pressure relief valve. If the temperature reaches 210 degrees or if the pressure reaches 150 pounds, the safety valve will open

