



Residential Water Heaters

Smelly Water or rotten egg odor in hot water lines is due to the reaction of sulfates and micro-organisms.

There are various ways to eliminate the odor problem:

- By means of chlorine feeder installation, Micro-organisms will normally not grow in chlorinated water, but have been heard of in low volume usage heaters when water is left to stagnate
- Periodic flushing of the water heater with common household bleach, such as Clorox or Linco. This is affective where odors are severe
- Anode Replacement – Removing the existing anode, flushing the tank thoroughly with bleach and installing a new anode rod, preferably aluminum. Anode removal will void the water heater warranty.

Chlorination of Water Heater Tanks

The water heater tank should be chlorinated:

- a. as periodic treatment for an odor problem
- b. when changing anode rods, due to odor problem

Here is how it is done:

1. Turn off the gas manual shut off valve, or power.
2. Close the cold water inlet valve at the heater.
3. Open a nearby hot water faucet.
4. Remove relief valve or disconnect with the hot water outlet pipe from heater.
 - a. Drain a gallon of water from drain valve for each gallon of Clorox to be added
5. Close heater drain valve and pour suggested amount of chlorine disinfectant (Clorox bleach or equal) into the heater through the relief valve opening or the hot water outlet pipe. Use one gallon of chlorine disinfectant for each 30 gallon of water heater tank capacity. The tank capacity is listed on the heater identification plate.
6. Leave the mixture in the heater for one hour or more.
7. Drain mixture from the tank through the heater drain valve.
8. Close the heater drain valve, open cold water inlet valve and completely fill the tank with water. Leave water in heater for 15 minutes.
9. Drain the water from the tank through the heater drain valve. Close the drain valve and reconnect the piping removed in step 4 above.
10. Open the cold water inlet valve at heater and fill tank with water. Close the hot water faucet after all the air is out of the system.
11. Check for water leaks at all fittings used. Repair as necessary.
12. Turn on gas or power. Follow lighting instructions which appear on the front of the jacket.

Check for normal heater operation.