



## Water Heaters in Tucson

Water heaters are an amazing appliance to have in our homes. Hot water flowing from every plumbing fixture in our homes is something very new to mankind. It was not until the 1889 that Edwin Ruud invented the first automatic storage water heater. Before this people heated water as needed, sometimes in large capacities, and dispensed it. Many of us have grown so accustomed to this luxury, that we demand it and in some cases a home is considered uninhabitable if it lacks hot water. This article will cover some basics to keep your hot water heater in Tucson running properly, so you get uninterrupted service.

There are several different kinds of water heaters on the market today. They are first divided between commercial and residential purposes. There are traditional tank water heaters and tankless which use a flash heating system. Both of these types of water heater can use electricity, natural gas, or propane to heat them. In this list of the basic water heaters, there are several different sizes and shapes, each with their own particular purpose. It is important to have the correct water heater installed in your home.

Tucson is a hard water area, much like other parts of the western United States. This condition causes particular strain on your water heater, and requires service to maintain. The truth about water heaters in general is that they are not made to last as long as your old water heater did. We have removed several old tanks in homes that worked for twenty or thirty years. The new water heaters will last between eight and twelve years without ever servicing. If a homeowner does service the water as recommended by the manufacturer, the new tanks can last between ten and twenty years. The service of a residential water heater is flushing the mineral build-up in the tank, changing the anode rod and cleaning dust from the air intakes.

We will go into a little more about each of the servicing steps for tank style water heaters. Servicing of tankless water heaters is very different and will be covered in another article. Flushing the water heater is something that most home owners can do themselves and it is a good habit to form. Manufacturers recommend flushing tanks every year, and if you want to do it more often, it will not hurt anything. Here at Tucson Plumbing Service, we recommend using the incoming water supply to flush the tank and force mineral build up out of the tank. Caution needs to be taken with plastic drain valves on older water heater. Sometimes these plastic valves can break when used and you have a real problem on your hands. If needed, a brass full port drain valve can be installed which will give you years of good service and easy flushing.

The next servicing component is the anode rod. This is a magnesium rod that is installed in the tank by the manufacturer. These magnesium rods act as a sacrificial metal that hard minerals attract to and consume. Once the magnesium rod is consumed, usually within four to five years, the metal inside the tank is open to corrosion. We can change the anode rod in the tank and in some cases add an extra rod for further protection. Extended warranties on water heater tanks is offered by installing a second anode rod on the tank. This service will promote longer life of the tank and reduce the risk of the tank



rusting and leaking. If you plan on being in the home for a while and want to get the most out of your tank, we recommend doing this.

The final component of the water heater service is the cleaning of dust and debris around the air intakes. New water heaters have a closed burner chamber, meaning air is no longer drawn in through the burner door. The burner is sealed off so people can not stick a match and light the pilot manually. Air needed for the burner is drawn in from the sides of the tank, usually at the bottom and pulled into the chamber for combustion. It is important to keep the area around the water heater clean so dust does not clog up the air inlets. This something the homeowner needs to maintain throughout the year. Obviously this does not apply to electric water heaters.

The servicing items outlined in this article will help promote a longer life of your tank. Like all mechanical devices, if you maintain them, you will get many years of great service from your water heater. If your water heater is over seven years old we typically do not recommend doing a full service, but urge customers to consider replacement of the tank. Zing Plumbing LLC service would be glad to review your water heater situation in your home and service your tanks to get the most out of the appliances in your home.