



HOT WATER HEATER PROBLEMS

Many complaints about water are due to problems that originate within the home. If you detect an odor in your hot water, it could be due to your water heater. A harmless type of bacteria can contaminate a water heater and convert natural sulfate to hydrogen sulfide gas, which has a pungent odor. This problem is made worse if you are away from home for long periods and the water heater stands idle. Flushing the water heater can help; consult your owner's manual for instructions. Other remedies include replacing the magnesium anode with an aluminum one or increasing the temperature setting to 160 degrees (high setting) for a few hours.

CAUTION: MAKE SURE THE WATER TANK HAS AN OPERABLE PRESSURE RELIEF VALVE BEFORE ATTEMPTING THIS REMEDY AND REMEMBER TO LOWER THE SETTING AFTER ABOUT THREE HOURS.

If you notice small white particles in your faucet aerators, check to see if they float. If they do, your water heater dip tube may have disintegrated into small pieces. The dip tube is an extension of the cold water, extending nearly to the bottom of the tank. This prevents the incoming cold water from diluting the temperature of the hot water. Few homeowners have the tools to know how to replace a dip tube; it's best to have a plumber perform this repair.

WINTERIZING YOUR HOME'S WATER SYSTEM

- ✓ Fill in foundation cracks
- ✓ Wrap exposed pipes with insulation
- ✓ Keep basement or crawl space warm enough to prevent freeze-ups
- ✓ Detach hoses from outside faucets
- ✓ Store lawn furniture more than three feet from utility meters
- ✓ Clear snow away from nearby fire hydrants



If you have questions about water or wastewater service, please call the Anoka Water Department at 763-576-2923.