



## Electric Water Heater Maintenance

Properly maintained, your water heater will provide years of dependable trouble-free service. It is suggested that a routine preventive maintenance program be established and followed by the user. It is further recommended that a periodic inspection of the operating controls, heating element and wiring should be made by service personnel qualified in electric appliance repair.

### 1. ROUTINE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

- A. Most electrical appliances make some sound when in operation, even when new. If the hissing or singing sound level increases excessively, the electric heating element may require cleaning. Contact your installer or plumbing contractor to inspect.
- B. The area near the water heater must be kept free of flammable liquids such as gasoline or paint thinners, adhesives or other combustible materials.
- C. At least once a year, lift and release the lever handle on the temperature pressure relief valve, located near the top of the water heater, to make certain the valve operates freely and allow several gallons to flush through discharge line. Make certain the discharged water is directed to an open drain.



**Before manually operating the relief valve, make certain no one will be exposed to the danger of coming in contact with the hot water released by this valve. The water may be hot enough to create a SCALD hazard. The water released should be directed to a suitable drain to prevent injury or damage.**

**NOTE: If the temperature and pressure relief valve on the water heater discharges periodically, this may be due to thermal expansion in a "Closed" water system. Contact the water supplier or your plumbing contractor on how to correct this. DO NOT plug the relief valve outlet.**

- D. A water heater's tank can act as a settling basin for solids suspended in the water. It is, therefore, not uncommon for hard water deposits to accumulate in the bottom of the tank. It is suggested that a few quarts of water be drained from the water heater's tank every month to clean the tank of these deposits.
- E. Rapid closing of faucets or solenoid valves in automatic water using appliances can cause a pounding "water hammer" sound. "Water hammer" can be described as a banging noise heard in a water pipe following an abrupt alteration of the flow with resulting pressure surges. Strategically located risers in the water pipe system can be used to minimize the problem. Also water hammer arresting devices are usually available from your plumber or local plumbing supply store.

**2. ANODE ROD INSPECTION** - The anode rod should be removed from the water heater's tank annually for inspection and replaced when more than 6" of core wire is exposed at either end of the rod. Refer to your Use and Care Manual for anode rod location. Make certain cold water supply is turned off before removing anode rod.