

Water Heater Flush Checklist

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ESTIMATED TIME

30–60 minutes

DIFFICULTY

Beginner–Intermediate

RECOMMENDED

Once per year

SAFETY REMINDER

Never restore power to an electric water heater until the tank is completely full.

Step-by-step

- ☐ **Gather tools**
Hose, screwdriver or pliers, gloves, bucket, flashlight.
- ☐ **Turn off power or gas**
Breaker off, or gas control to pilot / vacation.
- ☐ **Allow water to cool**
At least 30 minutes. Stored water can scald.
- ☐ **Attach garden hose**
Thread onto the drain valve; run downhill to a drain.
- ☐ **Open nearby hot water faucet**
Breaks the vacuum so the tank drains smoothly.
- ☐ **Drain tank**
Open the drain valve slowly. Discolored water is expected.
- ☐ **Flush until water runs clear**
Open the cold supply with the drain open.
- ☐ **Close drain valve**
Shut firmly, remove hose, watch for drips.
- ☐ **Refill tank**
Cold supply fully open until flow runs steady with no air.
- ☐ **Restore power or gas**
Only after the tank is completely full.
- ☐ **Check for leaks**
Drain valve, connections, T&P valve, floor and pan.
- ☐ **Record maintenance date**
Mark the tank and your home records.

Next recommended maintenance _____

Notes _____
