



Anode Rods, Cathodic Protection and the Porcelain (glass) Lining

**How to Replace an Anode Rod**

**! CAUTION:** *Draining your water heater for this procedure may put you at risk of being scalded by hot water. Please be careful when working on your water heater. If you are not comfortable with this procedure, call the services of a licensed plumbing contractor. Certain portions of this procedure may need to be performed to local codes. If you are not familiar with those codes, call the services of a licensed plumbing contractor.*

The anode rod on some water heaters are not accessible. They include the heat pump water heater, point of use water heaters of 20 gallons or less, residential direct vent water heaters and the DVX models made for manufactured housing. If you are not sure if the anode rod on your water heater is accessible, please call technical support at 800-432-8373.

These instructions will walk you thru the replacement of an anode rod in a residential gas or electric water heater. **Make sure you turn off all power to the water heater before you start the procedure.** Once completed, make sure you check for leaks at the anode rod threads; and check again 24 hours later.

You will need the following tools:

- 1-1/16 inch socket
- Ratchet
- 24" cheater bar or pipe
- Flat Blade Screwdriver
- Teflon tape or pipe dope



If you need assistance anytime during this repair, call our dedicated technical support line at 800-432-8373 M-F 8 am to 5 pm central time.

1. Turn water heater off at the circuit breaker or gas supply.



2. Turn off the cold water inlet valve or isolation valve.





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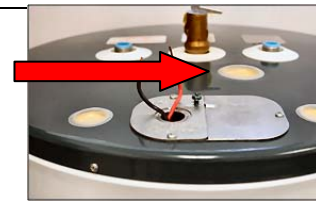
3. Open a hot water faucet to relieve system pressure inside the tank.



4. Drain approximately 2 gallons of water from the water heater's drain valve.



5. Locate the anode rod position on the center top of the tank. It will be underneath one of the plastic caps in the top pan. On older models, the anode rod may be exposed.



6. On some PowerVent models, you will need to remove the blower motor.



7. Remove the plastic cap to expose the anode rod.



8. If not clearly visible down to the tank shell, take a flat blade screwdriver and carefully remove the insulation and expose the anode rod head.


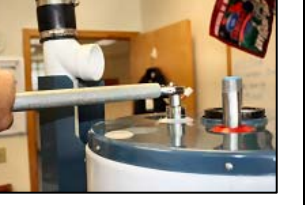


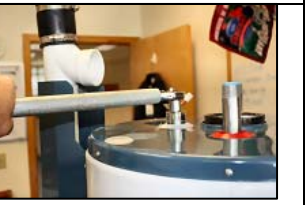



9. Next, you will need a 1 1/16 inch socket.





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<p>10. Using a 1-1/16 inch socket, remove the anode rod by turning it counterclockwise. (Have a rag handy because there will be some seepage of water from the anode rod location.)</p>	
<p>11. In most cases, you will need a long cheater bar to break the initial seal on the anode rod.</p>	
<p>12. Lift the anode rod out of the tank. <b>CAUTION: Anode rod may be hot!</b>  It will probably show some signs of deterioration. Something like a half dissolved alka seltzer.</p>	
<p>13. Prepare the replacement anode rod with pipe dope or Teflon tape. Reseat the anode into the tank and start to tighten.</p>	
<p>14. Tighten the anode rod completely with the 1-1/16 in socket. (Remember, lefty loosy; righty tighty)</p>	
<p>15. Turn cold water supply back on; purge the tank thru the open faucet for @ 1 minute; then close the faucet and check for leaks around the anode rod. Turn gas or circuit breaker back on.</p>	
<p>16. If there are no leaks, replace the plastic cap on the top pan if removed; replace the blower motor if removed. Check for leaks again in 24 hours.</p>	