

## Flush the Tank Every Six Months

Sediment build up in the tank can reduce your water heater's energy efficiency and also clog your water lines. Avoid these problems and increase the life of your unit by flushing the tank each time you check the pressure relief valve. To flush the tank:

1. Turn off the electricity to the water heater or turn the gas switch to pilot.
2. Shut off the cold water inlet to the water heater.
3. Connect a garden hose to the tank's drain valve.
4. Locate the draining end of the hose in an area that won't be adversely affected by the scalding hot water.
5. With the pressure relief valve open, open the drain valve and allow the tank to drain completely. Completely draining the tank ensures that you have removed all of the sediment possible.
6. Close the tank drain valve, disconnect the hose from the valve and close the pressure relief valve.
7. Open all the hot water spigots in the house and turn on the cold water inlet to the tank.
8. Close each hot water spigot as water begins to flow from it. After all the spigots are closed, turn on the electricity to the water heater or turn the gas switch to "run."

Following these simple maintenance procedures every six months will keep your water heater operating safely and efficiently for years.