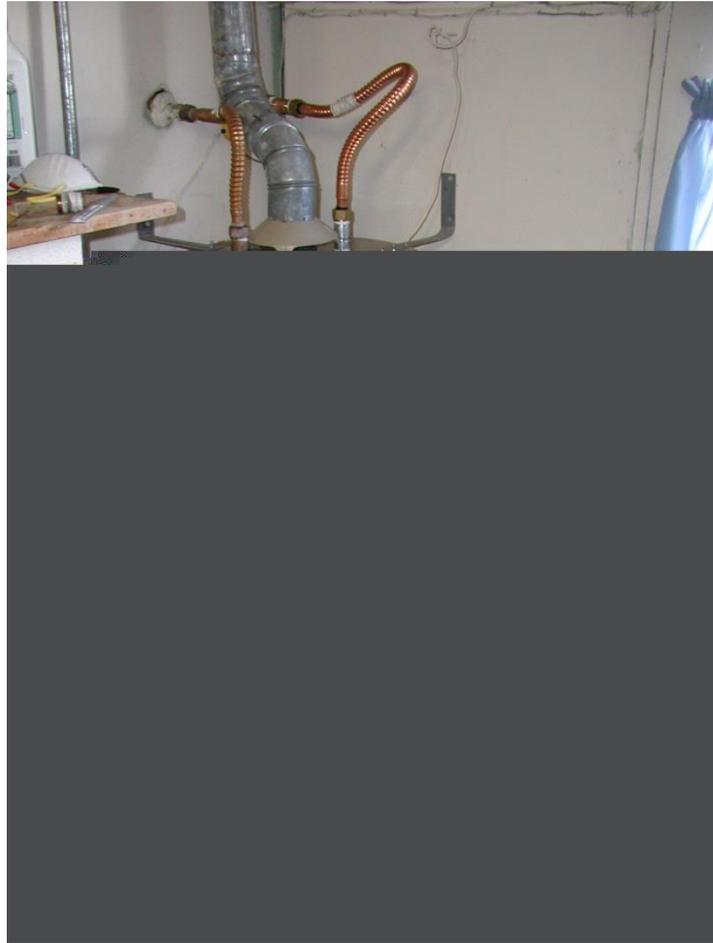


The Good Old Water Heater Days Are Over

Enjoying a hot shower
is no longer care-free

*A brief look at water heater maintenance
by Randy Schuyler, Water Heater Rescue
mail@waterheaterrescue.com*

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GOT
TILL IT'S GONE



That tank heater you just saw?

- It's my very own Kenmore Powermiser 5
- Now 34 years old
- One thermocouple, a couple of T&P valves, one dip tube and various anodes over the years
- Care-free hot showers!

Complexity = Bad new days

- FVIR devices
- Smart Controls
- Heat pumps

=

- Work
- Confusion
- Cold showers

... and the public, for the most part, just doesn't understand that the days of install and forget are finished, and that there are things they have to do if they want hot water.

Are tankless heaters better?

In some installations, yes, but they have their own complexities and issues, including cost. Today, we're mostly talking tank-type heaters. More on tankless in a bit.

FVIR heaters



Dust never sleeps

HIGH-TECH MAINTENANCE TOOL



Dust
that
FVIR;
clean
that
hybrid
filter

OR



Artwork by John Middleton

Location, location

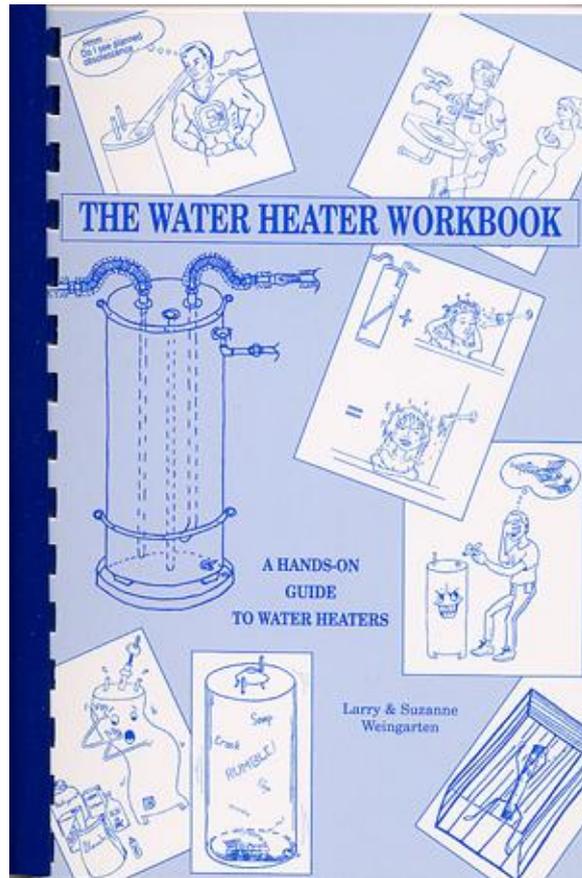
Your water heater is installed
WHERE??



Out of sight, out of (your) mind



Education: It starts here



The Basics: Anodes, Sediment and Maintenance

What you'll find on this page: the keys to understanding how water heaters work, what makes them fail, what can be done to save them, the ups and downs of tankless, how to get your hands dirty (and maybe your feet wet), and how to choose a new heater if this knowledge comes too late for your current one, as well as safety and emergency preparedness issues.

Until Larry and Suzanne Weingarten began experimenting, more than 25 years ago, not many people in the United States knew that water heaters could be economically serviced and made to last.

Somebody called the Weingartens to an apartment complex because the water heaters were making strange noises. All anybody knew to do then was replace them.

They learned what caused the noise -- sediment -- and how to stop it. They learned about the part that really controls the life of a water heater -- the anode rod.

They invented a unique vacuum cleaner, the Muck-Vac, that cleans the tank while it's full of water, and a special tool that makes it easier to remove anodes. Then they wrote a book: the Water Heater

Featured product
Water Heater Workbook

The book of water heater maintenance and troubleshooting

US-Price: \$28 [Buy it](#)

CAN-Price: \$34 [Buy it](#)

And just for once, read the manual

Otherwise, expect to be baffled when
your Smart Control starts winking at you

Function vs. longevity

- Function: does it work or not? If not, why?
Plumber territory, usually.
- Longevity: how long will it last? THAT part is up to you! And it can be plumber territory or DIY. Dare to dare.

Maintenance basics

- Hard water
- Soft water
- Softened water
- Why sediment matters
- Flush that stuff out or maybe stir it up, or use the Navy Method



We go the Navy one better



A brief note on safety



Test your T&P valve yearly. That can keep your water heater from blowing up and maybe killing you

The corrosion equation

- Glass-lined tanks
- Sacrificial anodes
- Impressed-current (powered) anodes



SHOWERING IN THE SEWER

Solutions:

- Aluminum/zinc anodes
- Powered anodes
- Marathons
- Tankless
- Peroxide



If you can do it for your car...

....you can do it for your water heater:

- Dust your living room and filters at the same time
- Flush your sediment on New Year's Day and the Fourth of July
- Check your anode every two years on New Year's Day
- Or every New Year's Day, if using a water softener

Maybe YOUR water heater will last 34 years!