



Water Heater Leak

A water heater leak can cause a great deal of damage to your home if left unrepaired. While most water heaters have a life expectancy of around 10 years they could have a leak at anytime if the tank fails or the pressure becomes too great.

Safety should be your first concern before trying to stop the leaking water heater, yourself. The water inside the tank is extremely hot and can cause a serious burn if you come in contact with the water being discharged from the tank. Likewise electrical components that come into contact with water create a shock hazard. If you have no experience with making minor home repairs you should call a plumber immediately and wait for professional assistance. Do not try to do something that you are not sure of.

If you feel that it is safe to proceed, you should first stop the flow of water if it is being rapidly discharged from the appliance by shutting off the water to the entire house.

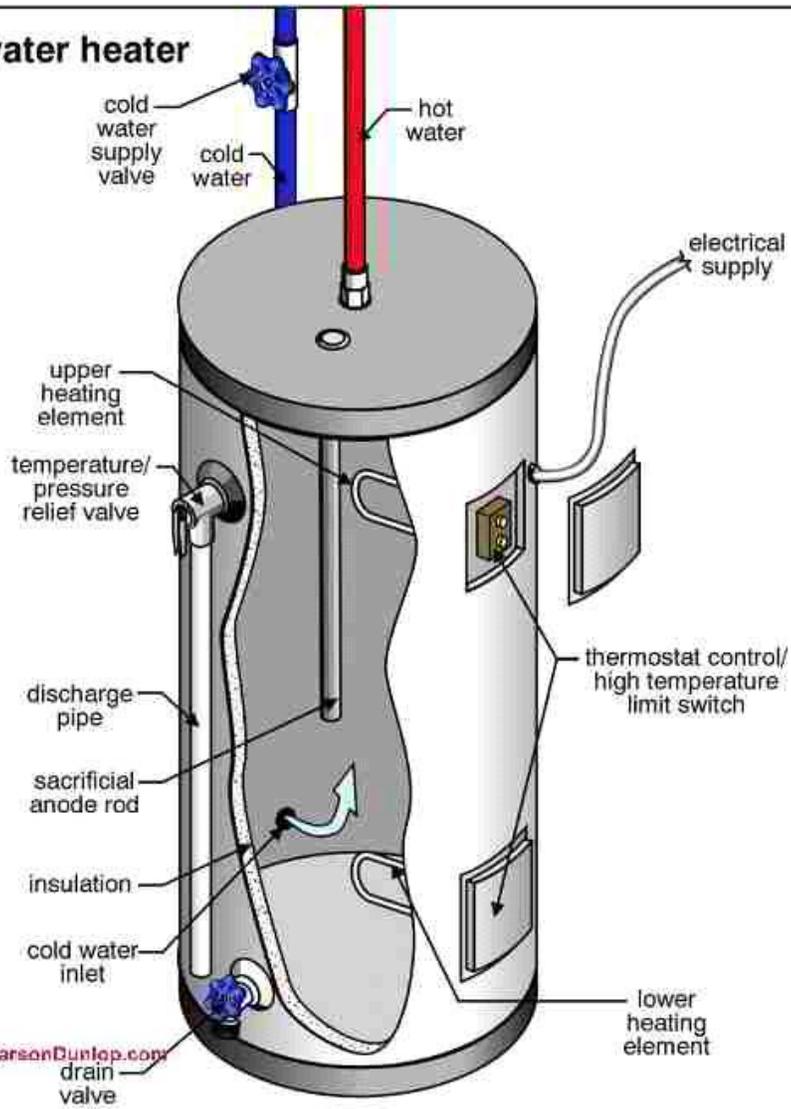
Next you should turn off the power source to the appliance itself. If the water heater is electric go to your breaker box and flip the switch that controls the electrical power to that appliance.

If the water heater is gas, there should be a gas valve or handle to turn off the supply. Only approach the tank if you can approach it without coming in contact with the hot water.

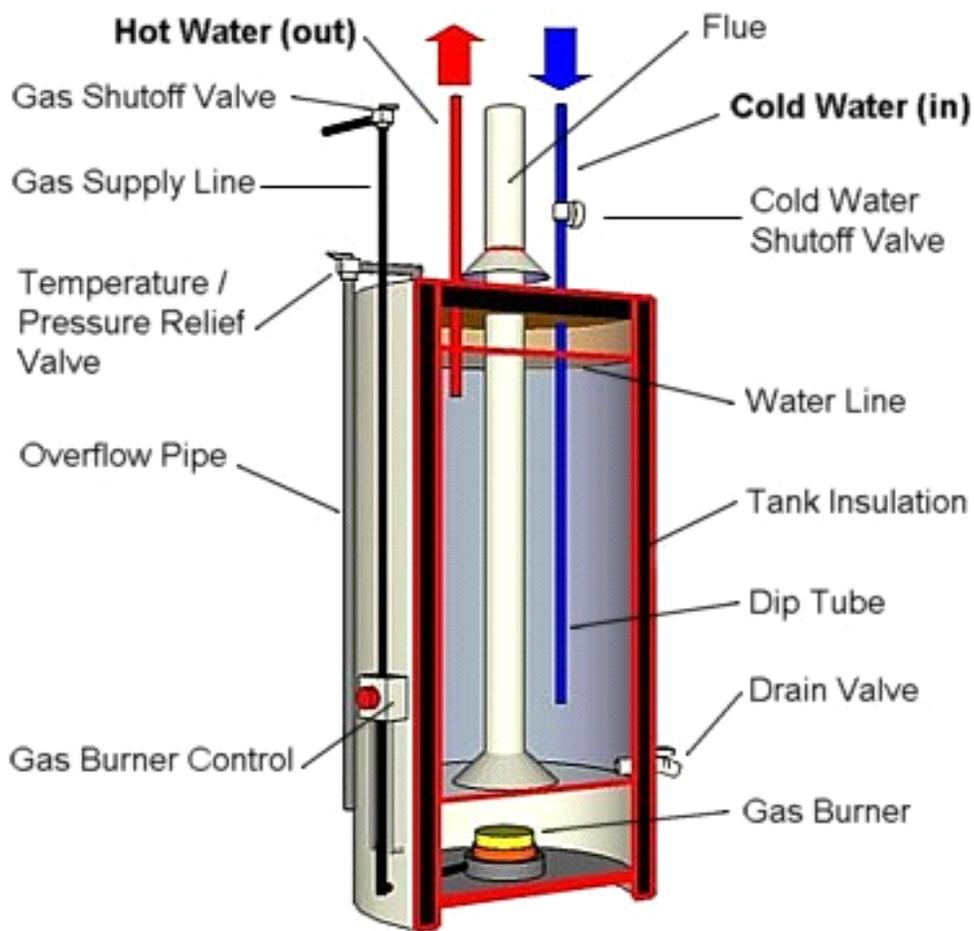
Often, leaks are caused by too much pressure. Most new water heaters have a pressure valve that is located at the top of the appliance, which if shut off, will stop the rapidly flowing water. There are YouTube videos you can watch to show you how to safely stop a leaking water heater.

Again use caution if hot steam or water is escaping from the water heater. Property can be replaced or repaired, but injuries to human life can cost a lot more. Stay calm and safe before trying to do any repairs yourself.

Electric water heater



© 2011 CarsonDunlop.com



Gas Hot Water Heater Components