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Your Anode Rod is Taking One for the Team. Then Again, It's Supposed To.

If you have a conventional storage-tank-type water heater – which most people do – then it comes equipped with an anode rod, also known as **a sacrificial anode rod**.

An anode rod is **a steel core wire surrounded with one of three different metals**: aluminum, magnesium, or zinc. Its proper upkeep is also key to how many years of service you can expect from your water heater.

The rod is screwed into the top of your water heater. When the tank is filled with water, **the anode rod “sacrifices” itself to protect the exposed steel on the inside of your tank**.

During this process – called electrolysis – **the more noble (less reactive) metal will corrode over the less (more reactive) noble metal**. Aluminum, magnesium, and zinc are all much less noble than steel, meaning they will corrode before the steel, which is why they are used for anode rods.



Anode Rod Problems

The anode rod is **designed to corrode so your storage tank lining won't**. That's the good news. But once it's thoroughly done its job and becomes corroded, the inside lining of your water heater tank is on its own. Meaning it's next in line for corrosion. And that, of course, is the bad news.

A typical anode rod will last about 4-5 years, depending on how often you use your water heater, the temperature setting, and whether or not you use a water softener. Water softeners contain salt, and too much salt is more bad news for an anode rod.

Green & Healthy Living Tips

Read the Small Print.

It's important to read packaging correctly. Be aware of the recommended portion sizes, and the sugar, salt and saturated fat contents. Remember that **not all E-numbers are bad, but too many is often a bad sign**.

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Once an anode rod becomes corroded, **it can and will cause one of two primary problems:**

- It can cause water inside the tank to rust
- It can break and fall to the bottom of the tank, and then eventually bounce around inside the tank, eventually tearing away at the lining

Either problem can and will shorten the life of your water heater, which means they are better avoided in the first place.

Water Heater Maintenance: The Key to a Longer Lifespan

The key to protecting the overall integrity of your water heater is annual system maintenance, which includes a thorough inspection of all working parts, anode rod included.

Has it been a year or longer since your last inspection? Then contact Your 1 Plumber today to schedule service. And be sure to present the coupon on page 3 of this newsletter; that way, **you'll pay just \$99 for service that will meet and exceed your expectations.**

In fact, we guarantee it!

William Kirkorian
President



Amazing Fact

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest snowflake ever fell in Fort Keogh, Montana on January 28, 1887. It was measured at 15" wide, and 8" thick.

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Our Favorite Recipes

Lentil Soup



"Hearty lentil soup, chock full of veggies and very yummy. Serve with warm cornbread."

[Click here to view and print this recipe.](#)

You Gotta Laugh

"I intend to live forever. So far, so good."

Steven Wright



Water Heater Inspection

Just \$99

...for our water heater tune-up and inspection service. This offer is valid through January 31, 2015. Only one (1) coupon per service address will be accepted. Coupon must be presented at the time of service. Not valid with any other offer or minimum service fee.

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Save \$25

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