



NATURAL GAS WATER HEATER MAINTENANCE

Hot water helps us wash our clothes, clean our dishes, bathe and cook. Generally speaking, most water heaters have a 15-year lifetime expectancy, but regular maintenance is vital to keep your water heater running reliably and efficiently for as long as possible.

Always check your manufacturer's manual to determine how and when your water heater should be serviced. Some maintenance tasks are simple, while others are best left to trained professionals, such as a licensed plumber.

ADD INSULATION

If you have an older tank model water heater, adding insulation to your tank and the pipes around it can significantly reduce heat loss and save on water heating costs. [The U.S. Department of Energy has a guide on how to do this yourself](#), or you can consult a trained professional to help you out.

ADJUST THE TEMPERATURE

For tank model water heaters, you should set the temperature to 120 degrees – no higher. That's typically the highest setting you need to take care of household chores and bathe without wasting energy. Some water heaters also have a "vacation mode" so you can leave town and keep your pilot light on without heating water.

FLUSH IT REGULARLY

Both tank and tankless models need to be flushed, while tankless models also need to be de-scaled. Check your manual to determine if these are projects you can take on yourself, or if you need to contact a licensed plumber. Manufacturers vary in how often they advise you flush and/or de-scale your water heater, with most recommending an annual basis.

With regular maintenance, you can maximize the life and performance of your water heater. If your water heater is reaching the end of its useful life, Texas Gas Service offers [rebates](#) for new natural gas tankless and super high-efficiency tankless models.