



Technical Bulletin

Water Sounds and Noise

Models Affected: All

Occasionally residential water heaters become noisy after a short period of service. These sounds are described as rumbling, bubbling, surging or boiling noises.

Since many heaters are installed where they are somewhat isolated from living areas, their owners are not aware of the condition. However, where heaters are located adjacent to sleeping rooms, or other living areas, they may be heard in the quiet of night. These sounds can be annoying.

The noisy condition is a result of lime formations or sediment collecting on the tank bottom. It is also common to find sand and other minerals settling out of the water and onto the tank bottom.

When the gas burner is on, droplets of water bubble through the crusty formations and sediment, creating the noise problem.

Electric heaters, with immersed heating elements, frequently develop "singing" or "hissing" sounds. This is caused by lime or scale accumulating on the elements. Remove and clean the elements with vinegar. Severe situations may require element replacement.

Sometimes the owner reports that a previous heater or another heater in a neighbor's home is relatively quiet. Many factors can influence the problem; for example, the silent heater may be fired at a lower gas rate or be heating water at a lower temperature. However, be assured that another glass-lined heater placed in the same location and, operated under identical conditions, will become noisy.

It is possible to reduce the noise by disconnecting the heater and flushing the tank. However, it may not be possible to remove all the lime formations from the tank bottom, and when reconnected, it may become noisy again. In hard water areas, the best solution for eliminating the noise problem is to install a water softener, to inhibit scale build up.

If you have any questions or concerns related to water sounds, contact our
Product Service & Support Department immediately at:

1-800-999-9515