



Clean Out Your Water Heater

Sediment will build up in your water heater which decreases efficiency, so it is recommended to flush the buildup out at least once a year but twice a year is best with heavy/full time use.

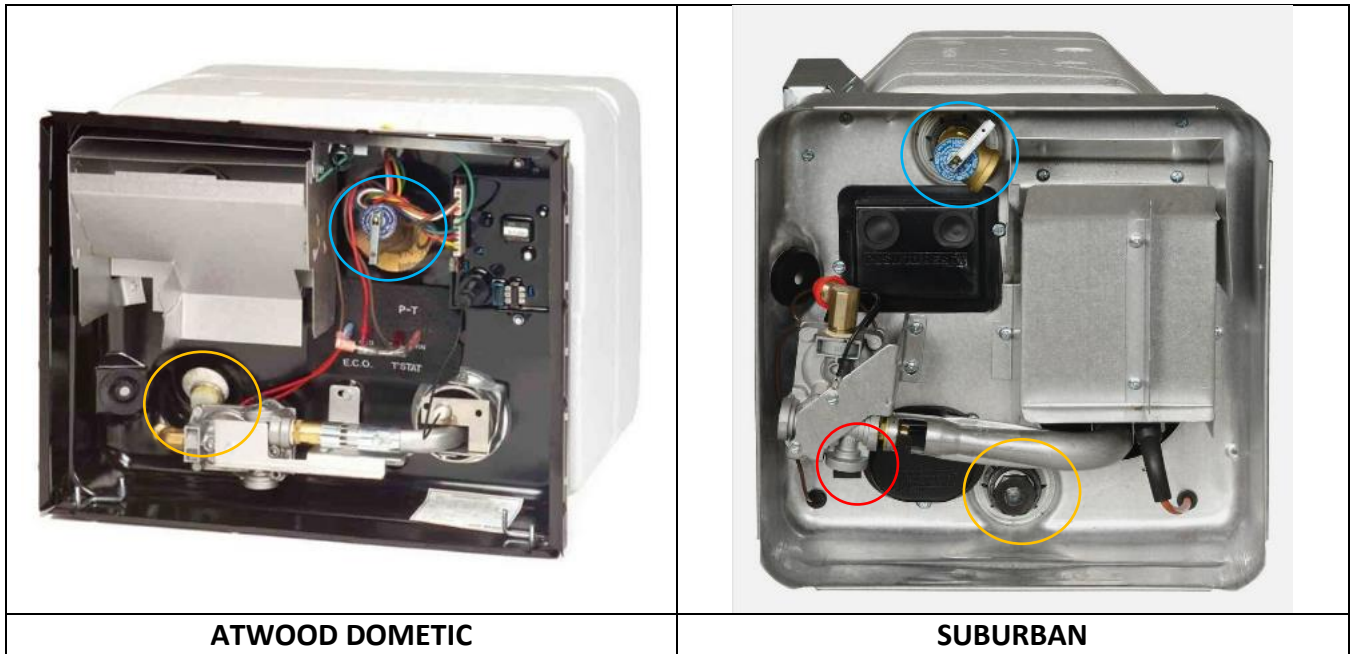
Supplies

- Garden hose
- Wand with ball valve
- Ratchet with either:
 - ATWOOD DOMETIC - 3/8" flexible extension and 15/16" 6-point socket
 - SUBURBAN – 6" extension and 1 1/16" 6-point socket
- Replacement:
 - ATWOOD DOMETIC - Plastic plug
 - SUBURBAN - Anode Rod
- Teflon tape or Teflon paste
- Water Resistance Scope (optional)



Wand with Ball Valve

Anatomy of a Water Heater



Blue circle – T&P Valve || Yellow circle – Plug/Anode Rod || Red circle – Electric switch (Suburban)



Steps

1. Turn off water heater (electric and gas).

**The electric switch may be on the water heater or an internal switch.*
2. Pump hot water out of the tank (run a faucet on the hot water side until it comes out cold)

💡 *Tip: Since you'll be draining 6-10 gallons, drain it into a bucket or sink to use to clean dishes! Or mix it with some cool water to soak your feet – Oooooo, spa day!*

3. Shut off water:
 - a. If connected to city water, turn off the city water faucet
 - b. If not connected to city water and pumping from your fresh water tank, turn off your RV water pump
4. Open the hot and cold valves at a faucet to relieve pressure
5. Remove the following from your water heater:

	
<p style="text-align: center;">ATWOOD DOMETIC - PLUG</p> <p>The plug in an Atwood Dometic water heater needs to be plastic for safety! If you ever have an overheating situation, the plastic plug is designed to blow out instead of the tank blowing up. If these plugs have been switched out with metals ones on your water heater, switch them back to the correct plastic ones. This is a life safety issue!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUBURBAN - ANODE ROD</p> <p>The water heater tank is steel, and minerals will eat through it over time. An anode rod is aluminum and will self-sacrifice to protect the tank (see above). There are magnesium anode rods available, but these can react with certain water conditions and will cause bad smells – so use aluminum!</p>

6. Open the T&P Valve
7. Drain the tank
8. Flush the tank with the wand until clear
9. Put Teflon tape or plumbers paste on the threads of the plug or anode rod
10. Replace:
 - a. ATWOOD DOMETIC – Plastic plug (if the plug is leaking and you can't get it to stop or the threads look worn, replace with a new plastic plug)
 - b. SUBURBAN – Anode rod (if the previous rod is less than 50% the original size, replace with a new rod)
11. Refill the tank (city water or onboard)
12. Close T&P when it spits out water
13. Purge the air from your water lines by running water until the “spitting” stops
14. Turn on electric or gas (or both)
15. Check for leaks and rinse aerators

**Reach out to us if you have bad buildup or large pieces of sediment that won't come out of the drain opening.*