

## Manufacturer's Procedures

**Always follow the procedures in accordance with your water heater manufacturer's manual. If this is not available you can use the enclosed procedure.**

At least once a year, maybe more often depending upon the area you live in, your water heater should be drained appropriately. This is a preventative maintenance process that will remove any sediment (iron, manganese, calcium, etc.) from the water heater.

### NOTE

**Before attempting to do the following procedure please be extremely careful. You are dealing with hot water and you do not want to get burned.**

### Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City of Rockford Water Division -  
Water Quality Section  
1111 Cedar St  
Rockford, IL 61102  
(779) 348-7151



For more information, visit our website at  
[www.rockfordil.gov](http://www.rockfordil.gov)



# Water Heater

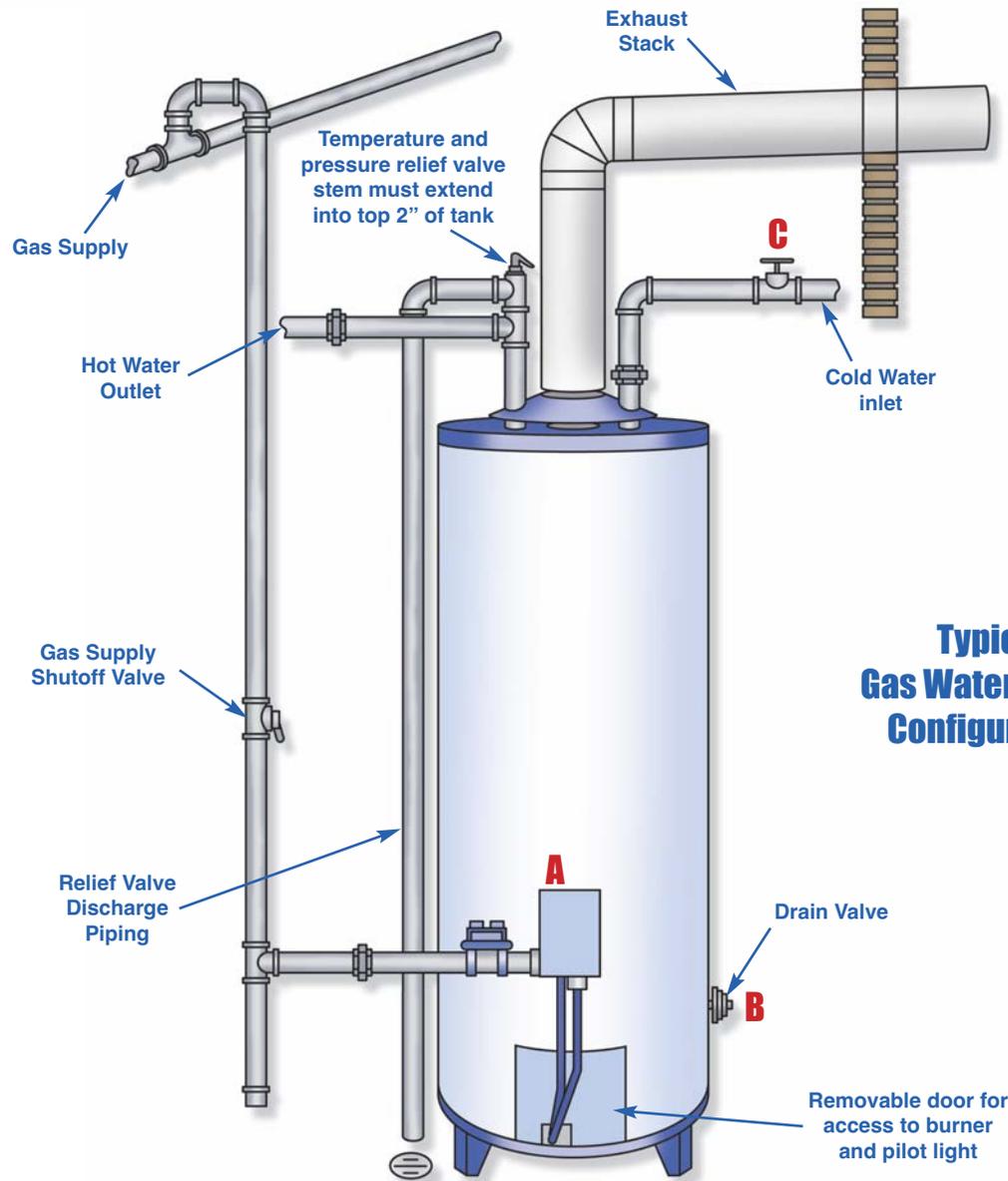
## Annual Maintenance

### Step By Step

To drain a water heater, do the following:

1. Turn water heater thermostat (A) to lowest setting.
2. Connect a hose to the bottom drain valve (B) and direct the end of the hose to the wash tub basin, floor drain or out a window.
3. Turn off the valve on the cold water supply pipe located above the heater (C).
4. Go to a faucet upstairs, preferably the kitchen, and turn on the hot water side.
5. Drain the water heater through the bottom drain valve (B) until there is little pressure present.
6. Turn hot water off upstairs.
7. Turn on the valve on the cold water supply line (C). Turn the valve on and off a few times to agitate the sediment on the bottom of the water heater.
8. Drain water heater again through the bottom drain valve (B) and keep open until discoloration and sediment have diminished.
9. During the draining and flushing process some trapped air will accumulate in pipes and the water heater. Open both the cold and hot water sides of faucets in bathrooms and kitchen sink to expel any air.

**If water is extremely dirty, you may have to repeat this process.**



**Typical  
Gas Water Heater  
Configuration**