

CITY OF HAINES

THERMAL EXPANSION NOTICE

Protect Your Plumbing

IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR HOT WATER HEATER

The City of Haines will begin construction on the first phase of the Water Compliance Project late this fall or early spring. The City recommends customers please read this notice and have your hot water heater inspected by a licensed professional. The City of Haines will not be held liable for any damages.

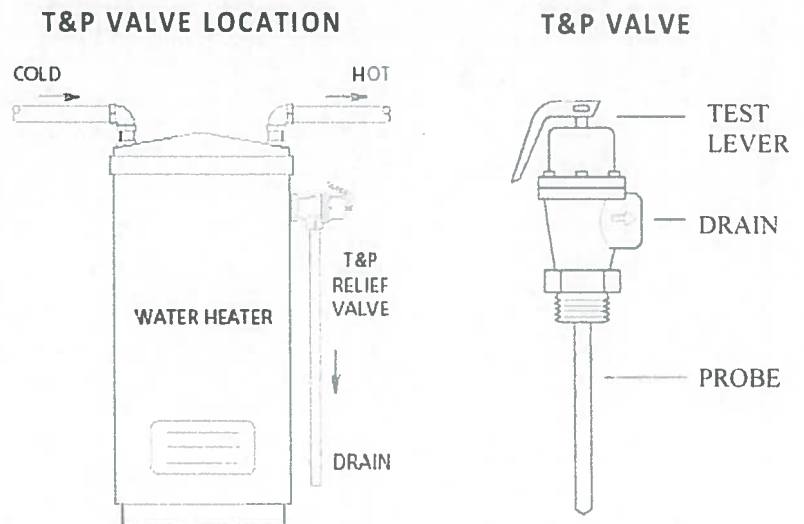
THERMAL EXPANSION DANGER

Most homes are supplied with hot water from an electric or gas heated tank. Until the heating element stops working, the water heater is usually taken for granted. However, if not properly maintained, a water heater may become a safety hazard.

Water expands in volume as its temperature rises. The extra volume caused by thermal expansion must go somewhere. If not, the heated water creates an increase in pressure.

The temperature and pressure in the water heater is reduced when hot water is withdrawn from a faucet and cold water enters the tank. The increase in pressure from thermal expansion can also be reduced by water flowing back into the public water system. However, when a check valve, pressure-reducing valve or backflow preventer is installed in the service pipe a "closed system" is created. Provisions must be made for thermal expansion in these cases. The Haines Water Compliance Project will install a check valve at every water meter. This device prevents water from flowing backward from a house or business in to the city water supply.

As the pressure within the tank builds up due to a "closed system", there could be a chance of injury, significant damage to plumbing and rust deteriorated surfaces, or pressure relief discharge at the water heater.



WHAT THE HOMEOWNER SHOULD DO TO ENSURE PROTECTION FROM THERMAL EXPANSION

- The homeowner should check to see that a thermal expansion tank and T & P Valve are in place.
- If there is any doubt, the homeowner should contact a licensed plumber.
- The T & P Valve should be periodically inspected to ensure that it is properly operating.
- Some T & P Valves are equipped with a test lever. Manually lifting the lever unseats the valve, allowing water to discharge. If water continues to leak from the T & P Valve after closing, the valve may need to be replaced. A drain line must be installed to avoid water damage and scalding injury when the valve operates.
- The T & P Valve should be periodically removed and visually inspected for corrosion deposits and to insure it has not been improperly altered or repaired.
- Installation specifications may vary; the above work can best be done by a licensed plumber. Installations should always be in accordance with Manufacturer's Instructions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS CONTACT:
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