

Checklist: How to Troubleshoot Basic Water Heater Problems

You can try all of the tips below to fix a wide range of water heater issues. Those problems include no hot water, weird noises coming from the water heater, and low hot water pressure.

- For a gas water heater, make sure there is still gas flowing to the water heater and confirm the pilot light is lit. Also, make sure the vent flue coming out the top is attached and obstruction-free.
- For an electric water heater, turn it off, and then turn it back on. Sometimes this can reset the whole system and fix whatever was glitching.
- Reset the circuit breaker that feeds power to the water heater.
- Try turning up the thermostat to a higher temperature setting. Test it in a couple of hours to see if the water feels hotter.
- Shut down the water heater and flush the water tank with clean water. This will get rid of sediments that can build up in the bottom of the tank.
- Check all of the valves connected to the water heater; make sure they are fully open.
- If you frequently run out of hot water, your [water heater may not be large enough](#) for your family's needs. Consider upgrading to a larger tank or a tankless model.
- If your water happens to feel too hot, try turning the thermostat down.
- Test the temperature-pressure relief valve. If water doesn't flow out when you lift the handle, you will need a plumber to replace it.
- If your water smells weird or has a strange color, check the hot and cold water separately. Stinky hot water could mean sediment in the hot water tank is affecting your water quality. Smelly cold water means your water source is foul. Either way, a water filtration system and water softener will help.
- Make sure your water softener is operating correctly. Hard water will take a toll on all water heaters, but tankless models are especially sensitive to hard water.

If these DIY fixes don't work, call your trusted plumber. There could be a variety of things going wrong with your water heater. To avoid injury and property damage, water heater repairs should only be completed by a qualified plumber. Some of the issues he or she will look for include:

- Failing components, like the thermocoupler, heating element, or thermostat.
- Sediment build-up or damage inside the water tank.



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- Mineral deposits in the pipes, which will restrict water flowing through pipes.
- Problems with the gas supply running to the water heater.
- Water leaks coming from the tank or pipes.
- For a tankless water heater, mineral deposits inside the device will prevent it from heating water properly.

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