

Checklist: 8 Signs It's Time to Upgrade to a Tankless Water Heater

Blog: Understanding the Process and Benefits of Tankless Water Heater Installation

When was the last time you found yourself daydreaming about your water heater? If you're like most homeowners, you won't give it a second thought until it breaks down. But this isn't the best way to handle things. If you give your water heater the attention it deserves, you may notice one of these common signs that a replacement is in your future:

- 1. Your hot showers have become shorter and colder.** Your shower is some of the only peace and quiet you get all day, and you don't want it to end abruptly. If you have to jump out of the shower sooner than you'd like, your water heater may be on its last leg.
- 2. Your water heater keeps knocking, even though nobody is home.** Under normal circumstances, water heaters are pretty quiet. Don't ignore the commotion. Banging or rumbling may mean it's time to save for a newer model.
- 3. The water is a beautiful shade of rust.** Nope, your eyes are not deceiving you. Orange water is a sure sign of water heater woes. That bright color is actually corrosion from inside the tank, and it may eat right through the walls of your water heater.
- 4. The water heater won't stop crying.** Unless your water heater has morphed into a sentient being, those aren't tears of sadness. Instead, they're most likely water droplets from a hidden leak. You need a plumber to replace your water heater before it causes a flood.
- 5. There's a pond forming at the base.** Don't wait until any ducks fly in and set up permanent residence around your water heater. Standing water is another warning sign of a lurking leak. Only a plumber can resolve this issue.
- 6. The energy company keeps wanting more money.** An efficient water heater shouldn't break the bank. Review any changes in your energy bill carefully to determine if an inefficient unit is to blame. Better yet, save money and get a tankless model.
- 7. Your hot water smells like melted metal.** Is that even possible? Yes, unfortunately, it is. If the tank of your water heater fills up with too many minerals or rust, you can smell it from the tap. You may even taste it, but we don't recommend that you pour yourself a glass of rust water.
- 8. The water heater receives a senior citizen discount.** Water heaters have a limited lifespan. Don't wait until your water heater qualifies for the early-bird special. Instead, you should replace it after ten years. If you wait any longer, you're asking for a flood.