

Removing Water Heater Odor

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Whenever the water coming out of the faucets inside the house doesn't smell good, there is most likely an issue with your water heater. There are a couple of various causes of stinky water, however the leading cause is [bacteria](#). If bacteria is entering into the water, an odor will likely come about. Well water is usually to blame for this developing. But, there are a few actions a Spring Texas homeowner could take to prevent bacteria from developing in their water and to remove existing bacteria and odors.

According to Soquel Creek Water District, "The smell is the result of four factors that must all be present for the odor to develop. These factors include:

- A high concentration of sulfate in the raw water
- Sulfate reducing bacteria, non-toxic to humans (sulfate is reduced to a sulfide state by the bacteria)
- Little or no dissolved oxygen in the water
- Hydrogen (a component of water which may be present due to water conditions reacting with the anode)"
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Preventing Water Heater Bacteria Growth

The easiest way to prevent bacteria from developing and bringing about bad tastes and odors throughout one's property, is to be certain the temperature is fixed at 140 degrees or greater on one's water heater. At this temp bacteria can't expand and will die. If perhaps your water heater temp is placed any lower than this, bacteria will not only survive but will multiply.

Cleaning Out Hot Water Heater Bacteria



In order to get rid of active bacteria and smells, one will have to use chemicals to destroy it. Chlorine bleach is the most efficient and comprehensive chemical cleaner to use. In cases where you are trying to clean out the water and get rid of the bacteria using bleach yourself, make sure you have an understanding of the complete method of doing this. First of all, the electric or gas going to the water heater needs to be turned off. After that the cold water supply has to be turned off. Next, you must turn on one of the hot water faucets within the home. This lets air into the tank. Working with a garden hose, drain the water from the hot water heater and close up the drain valve after all of the water has been drained. Next, it is time to pour in the bleach. One needs five oz of bleach for each gallon of water the tank holds. Unscrew the flexible cold water hose and pour the bleach in the opening. In case the cold water hose is not flexible, it could be a good idea to call in an expert. Connect the water line once again and refill the tank with water. It's critical to shut the hot water faucet in the home as soon as all the air is out of the line. It is also important to run each one of the taps that use hot water within the property until you're able to smell the bleach. The bacteria which is in the water heater can also be in piping and fixtures which means that you will have to wipe out the bacteria in these places also. Let the bleach water sit inside the tank and inside the piping for nearly 3 hours without using any hot water. And then yet another flush is due. As soon as the tank is drained again, don't put in more bleach but refill with water and give it time to remain inside the tank and inside the water lines for a minimum of thirty minutes. Finally, drain the water once more and replenish the tank with water. Let all the hot water fixtures in the home run until you can no longer smell bleach. Either switch the power back on or reignite the pilot and you should be good to go!

For any concerns about water stench, flushing a water heater, [Spring water heater repairs](#), or other water heater

concerns, call us!