



# KEEP THIS WITH YOUR WATER HEATER

## Preparing for emergencies

In an emergency, such as a severe winter storm or an earthquake, your home's water service may be temporarily unavailable. In addition to the water you have stored for drinking and cooking, your water heater could provide you with 30 -80 gallons of water for sanitation and other emergency uses.

## SECURING YOUR WATER HEATER

Water heaters can move or tip over if not securely anchored to the wall or floor. For a small investment of time and money, you can avoid spilling gallons of precious water that could be useful in an emergency.

Purchase and install a strap or bracing kit from your local hardware store, or have a licensed plumber strap your water heater according to code.

## ACCESSING WATER FROM YOUR WATER HEATER IN AN EMERGENCY

### 1. Turn off your home's water supply.

In most homes, emergency water shut off valves are found in the basement, crawlspace, garage or outside the home's foundation. Locate your shut off valve before an emergency, so you'll know how to access it quickly if needed.

### 2. Turn off your water heater's power source.

For electric water heaters, shut off the power by flipping the correct switch on your electrical panel. For natural gas water heaters, visit [www.nwnatural.com](http://www.nwnatural.com) for important safety measures.

### 3. Turn off your water heater's water supply.

Locate the water shut-off valve and turn it clockwise until it stops. This valve is typically located on the top of the unit.

### 4. Let air into your water heater.

You can do this by opening the relief valve located on the side of the tank (flip the handle so that it sticks straight up or out), or by turning on hot water spigots in the main living area or upstairs in your home.

### 5. Locate the drain valve at the bottom of the tank and release water.

Place a clean container under the drain valve spigot to capture water and turn the spigot or screw of your tank's drain valve to the left. Wear gloves and eye protection and be careful as the water may be very hot.

### 6. Treat or filter any water that you use for drinking, cooking or hygiene.

Water from your hot water heater can be used for sanitation purposes. In extreme emergencies when other sources of purified drinking water are not available, you may use water from your hot water heater for drinking, cooking or hygiene after following these steps:

- Boil water for at least one minute, or
- Put water in a sanitized container and treat with unscented chlorine bleach (1/8 tsp of bleach per gallon of water), or
- Use a personal water filter, making sure to follow manufacturer's instructions.

### 7. When you're ready to refill the tank with water, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.