

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

WATER HEATER SIPHON INSTRUCTIONS

To use your water heater as an emergency water supply, read the Warnings and Cautions noted on the back of this sheet, and then follow these step-by-step instructions.

TURN OFF THE WATER IN TWO LOCATIONS

1

Main Water Valve: Turn off the water at the main water supply to your home. This might be under the house, in the garage, on the outside of your house, or at the street. AND



Water Heater Water Valve: Turn off the water supply that goes directly into your water heater. This shut-off is at your water heater.



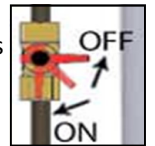
TURN OFF THE POWER OR GAS TO THE WATER HEATER.

2

Electric Water Heater: Turn off the power supply to the water heater at the main electrical panel.



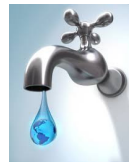
Gas Water Heater: Turn off the gas supply to the water heater at the water heater itself.



RELIEVE PRESSURE IN YOUR WATER SYSTEM

3

Turn on a faucet somewhere in your home to relieve pressure in your system. Be prepared to collect any remaining water that might come out of that faucet.



ACCESS THE COLD WATER INLET ON THE WATER HEATER

4

Use a wrench to remove the plumbing connection to the cold water inlet (flexible supply tube) of the water heater. This will be on the top of the water heater, normally on the right side, sometimes marked 'C' for cold, and sometimes blue. Some water may spill out when you remove it.



INSERT THE PLASTIC SIPHON TUBE INTO THE WATER HEATER

5

Push the clear plastic tubing down into the cold water inlet (that you just opened) until it extends into the water. Some water heaters have an 'anti-thermosiphon' device blocking the opening. If so, carefully remove it with a screwdriver.



START THE SIPHON & FILL YOUR CONTAINER

6

There are a couple different methods to start the siphon process: the sucking method and the thumb method. **Sucking Method:** Gently suck on the end of the tube, holding the end of the tube lower than the water level in water heater. Remove your mouth and water should flow. OR **Thumb Method:** Hold your thumb over the end of the tube while you pull your end to a level below the water level inside the tank. Remove your thumb and water should flow.



WATER HEATER SIPHON CAUTIONS & WARNINGS



Read the caution and warning notes below before using your water heater as an emergency water supply.



IS THE WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

During a catastrophic disaster, such as a major earthquake, you may be able to use the water in your water heater for survival drinking water. While it is generally thought that the water inside your water heater is safe to drink, err on the side of caution. If you have any doubt about it, be sure to purify the water before drinking it.

WHAT ABOUT THE DRAIN ON THE BOTTOM OF THE WATER HEATER?

While most water heaters have a drain, the drain on the bottom of the water heater should not be used, except as a last resort, for the following reasons:

- Sediment settles in the water heater tank. The drain is on the bottom and you may get sediment rich, perhaps muddy water from the tank.
- Drains on water heaters are notoriously poor quality. You may not be able to turn it on, or worse yet, it may break while attempting to turn it off, in which case you will likely waste your precious water supply.
- It can be difficult filling a container from the drain because it is so close to the floor or otherwise inaccessible.



AFTER YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT CLEAN WATER HAS BEEN RESTORED:

- **REFILL THE TANK FIRST!** Refill the tank before turning the gas or electricity back on.
- **GAS!!!** If the gas is turned off, a professional **MUST** be the one to turn it back on.
- **DAMAGE!!!** If the power is still on when the tank is empty, your tank will almost certainly sustain significant damage.