



Uninstalling an Electric Water Heater

This guide provides instructions on how to uninstall an electric Water Heater.

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INTRODUCTION

This outline will show readers how to diagnose a faulty Water Heater element. It will also explain how to replace the complete Water Heater.

TOOLS:

- [Pipe Wrench](#) (1)
 - [Phillips #0 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Garden Hose](#) (1)
 - [Multimeter](#) (1)
 - [Channellock Groove Joint Pliers](#) (1)
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Step 1 — Water Heater



- At the breaker box, locate the breaker to the water heater and move the breaker bar to off.
- Using a multimeter, check the line voltage at the water heater. You should have 0vac

Step 2



- Using a Phillips screwdriver, remove the access panel or panels to access the thermostat and element.
- ⓘ Some models have only one element located near the bottom of the tank, other's have two—an upper and lower thermostat and element.

Step 3



- Set aside the access panel and remove the insulation to expose the wires, thermostat and element.

Step 4 — Draining the tank



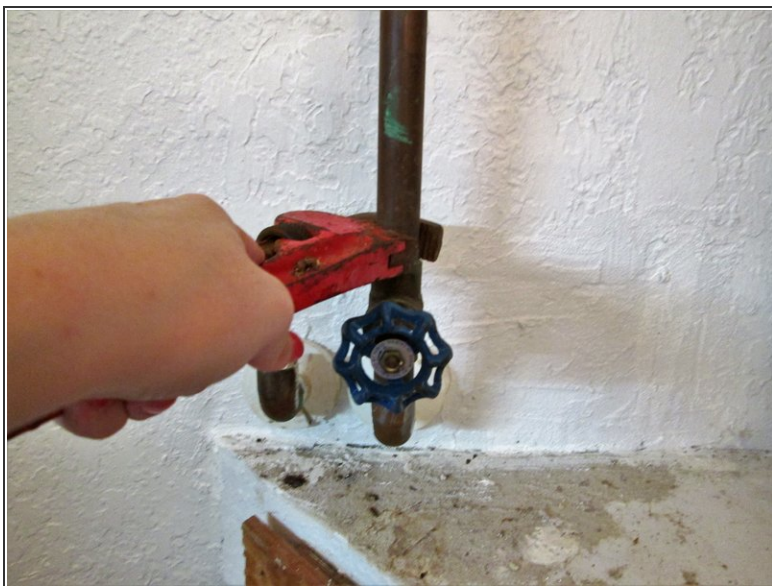
- Attach a garden hose (or any hose) to the drain valve that is located at the bottom of tank, near the lower access panel.
- Open the drain valve on water heater. Once you have good water pressure coming out of the hose, slowly close the cold water valve to the water heater. If the water flowing out slows down, you can open the faucets at a sink or tub.

Step 5



- With your adjustable pliers or piano wire, cut the water lines to the tank.

Step 6



- Detach all pipes from the tank using a pipe wrench.

Step 7



- Remove the water tank.
- ⚠ The tank will have sediment and some water in it. It will be heavy and require at least 2 people to move it safely.
- ★ To install a new water heater, follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Tp install a new water heater, follow the installation instructions that came with the new water heater.