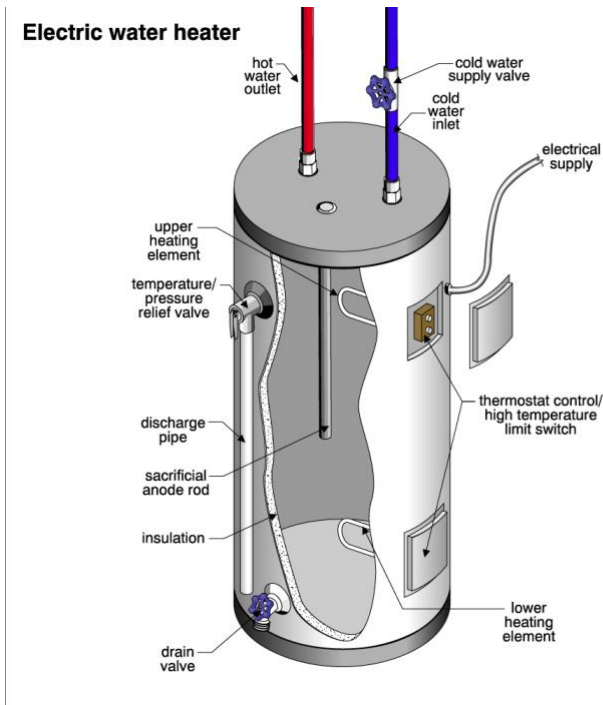
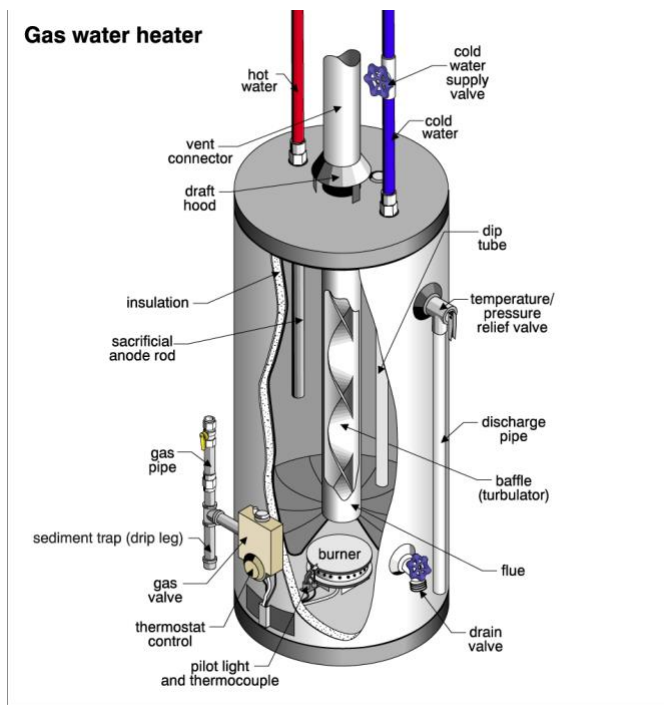


# Hot Water Tanks by Finn Home Inspectors

Below are the three common tank hot water heaters. They include a gas fired, an electric and a tank that is heated by a zone off a boiler.

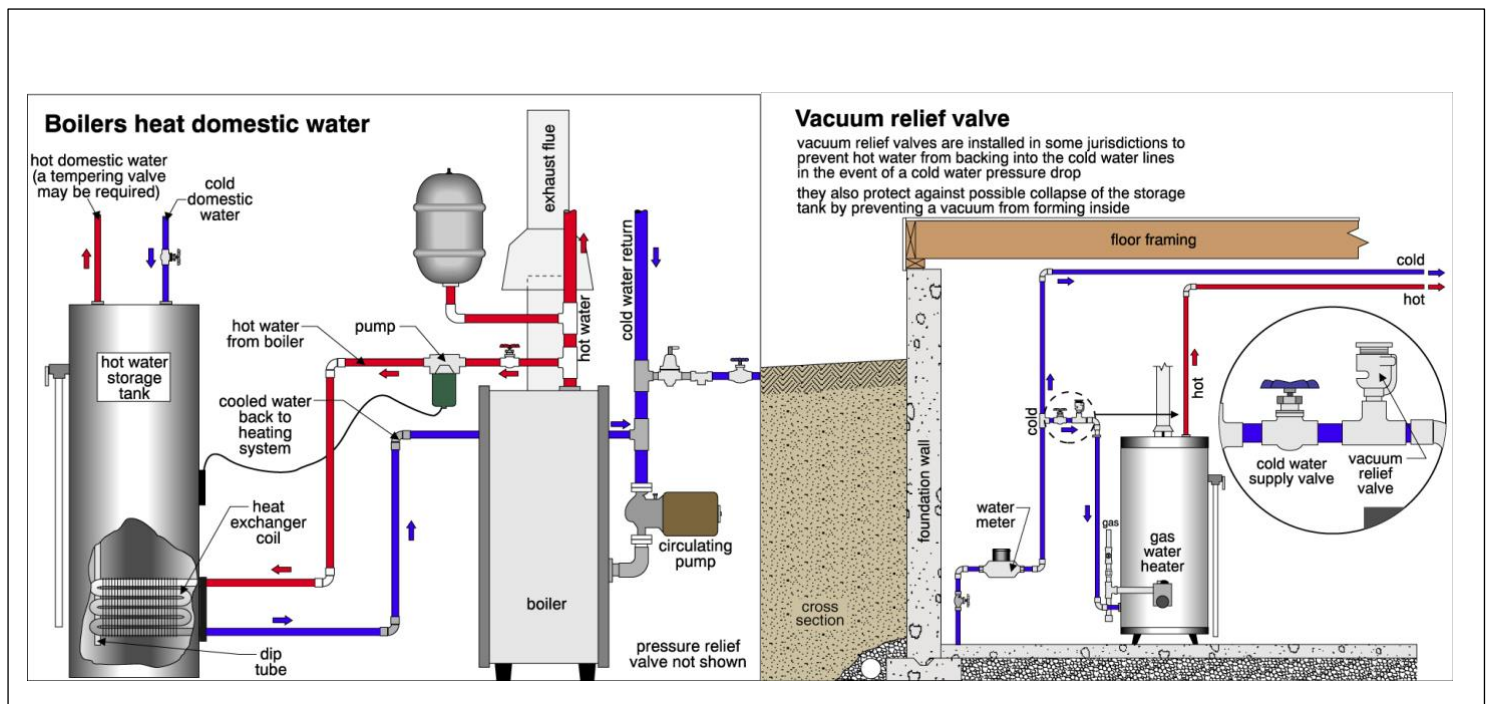
The bottom right photo shows a vacuum breaker valve which is required in some states including Massachusetts. The relief valve helps avoid backflow (draining of tank which can damage or leak to explosion of the tank). It also protects the tank from collapsing in the event of a pressure drop which may be caused when the municipal pumps fail or a fire truck pumps from a hydrant near the house.

The tanks have a sacrificial anode (pictured in top two tanks), it is intended to help avoid corrosion of the water tank.



A gas fired hot water tank

An electric hot water tank



A Zoned hot water tank. Just as some different rooms in your home have their own heat with a separate thermostat, the water heater works the same way.

When the temperature drops in the tank a circulator pump moves hot water from the boiler to the tank and warms up the water in the tank.

The circled area is an enlargement of the vacuum breaker valve which must be on the cold-water supply side of the tank. As noted, it protects the tank from damage.

Damage can be caused by implosion of the tank if the pressure drops. With an electric tank, the elements will burn out if water is sucked out of the tank.