



Water Heaters and Thermal Expansion

Crystal Springs Water District is committed to providing you with clean, safe drinking water.

Most homes are supplied with hot water from an electric or natural gas heated tank. If not properly maintained, a water heater may become a safety hazard. Here are some tips to guard against thermal expansion.

WHAT IS THERMAL EXPANSION?

Thermal expansion is the term used to describe the **expansion of water volume due to heating**. For example, water heated from 60°F to a thermostat setting of 130°F in a 50 gallon water heater will expand by almost a gallon. Since water is not compressible, the extra volume created by expansion must go somewhere.

Crystal Springs Water District typically has a check valve installed at the meter assembly to prevent backflow into the public water system, creating a closed system in which water can only flow *in* to your home. If fixtures aren't regularly being used, or if your water heater thermostat and elements are not working correctly, this can cause increased water pressure due to thermal expansion.



HOW TO PROTECT?

- Regularly inspect the T&P (temperature and pressure) valve, the thermostat and elements on the water heater.
- Install an adequately sized Thermal Expansion Tank to absorb excess pressure.
- Contact a licensed plumber for assistance.

If you need your water turned off to make a repair, please contact the District Office at (541) 354-1818 or office@cswdhr.com

CRYSTAL SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

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