

WATER HEATER TANK CORROSION

Pinhole leaks from galvanic corrosion may cause the water heater tank to fail.

Microscopic particles of metals (like iron and copper) suspended in water, set up a reaction inside the water heater that is not unlike the principle on which an automotive battery operates. The aluminum tank is the anode and the metals in the water serve as the cathode. Consequently, the aluminum gradually sacrifices itself and aluminum particles are carried away with the water flow.

A white scaly material (aluminum oxide) often is formed around the points where the heaviest action is taking place and heat accelerates the process. Severity of the problem varies considerably in different locales depending on the metal and mineral content of the water. White deposits inside the water heater tank are usually from water impurities that have settled out.

Periodic flushing of the water heater tank under pressure is recommended to slow down this process. For flushing instructions see your owners manual or contact Atwood for a copy of our recommended procedure.