



### ***Field Service Bulletin***

#### **Condensation**

**Model(s) Affected: All Residential & Commercial Gas Units**

"Energy Efficient" type gas water heaters were in demand as a means of conserving energy even before the Federal Government required water heater manufacturers, effective January 1, 1990, to produce energy efficient water heaters only. By extracting more heat from the products of combustion, condensation will be more pronounced. This is caused by more heat being absorbed into the water leaving less temperature to carry the water vapor produced in gas combustion to pass out of the venting system. That is, more water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O) is condensing to water inside the flue and running down as condensation.

It is normal for the installer or the consumer to hear dripping on the main burner causing a hissing sound. To an unknowing person, it would appear that the tank is leaking. In some cases, a puddle will form beneath the water heater.

Condensation should cease by the time the water in the tank gets up to desired temperature. It may reoccur when a long draw of water, such as washing clothes, or an extra long shower, drains all the hot water from the tank. As it reheats, condensation may again be obvious. In some cases, it is hard to believe that the tank is not leaking.

#### **WHAT CAN BE DONE TO EASE CONDENSATION PROBLEMS?**

1. Be aware of gas conservation and the resulting fuel savings.
2. Encourage shorter showers.
3. Wash clothes in cold water if possible.
4. Use a dishwasher only with a full load and wash by hand as a conservation measure.
5. Realize that leaks in hot water faucets or water lines can be expensive due to wasting hot water and requiring more fuel to maintain water temperature.
6. Be sure that the water heater is of large enough capacity to prevent constant, complete usage of hot water.
7. Install a drain pan, in accordance with the installation instructions, to catch the dripping condensation until it evaporates.

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