



Hot Water Need To Know - Anode Replacement

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Have you ever wondered why your hot water cylinder doesn't corrode? It seems every other metal object that comes in contact with water eventually rusts or corrodes, so what is stopping it from happening to your precious source of hot water?

Well, there is a little 'secret' that you need to know about called Sacrificial Anodes.

It's not like the industry is trying to cover up their existence though, it's just that in general people don't know what they are. But you need to know about them because they are what is keeping your hot water unit healthy, and they will need to be replaced during your unit's lifetime.

What are Sacrificial Anodes?

As the name suggest, these devices are sacrificed to ensure that your hot water unit doesn't corrode and that the water inside stays clean and clear.

When two types of metal are placed together in the same area of water, the "nobler" or less reactive one will remain intact, while the more reactive one will start to corrode.

In your hot water unit, rods made of magnesium or aluminium sit inside your hot water cylinder and effectively sacrifice themselves in the process of electrolysis to ensure the exposed metal (nobler) elements of your hot water cylinder remain intact.

Why do they need to be replaced?

Again, as the names suggest, these devices sacrifice themselves for the benefit of your hot water unit, so they will eventually corrode away. Once they are completely 'sacrificed' then the corrosion will start on your cylinder instead. So, you need to keep an eye on your anode, and know when it needs to be replaced.

How long do they last?

The lifetime of the anode depends on a few factors such as:

- Water quality
- Usage
- Water temperature
- Tank quality

A high quality hot water unit will have a lifetime of about 10 years in normal conditions, and we generally advocate replacement of the anode inside the unit after about 5 years.



What happens if I don't replace the anode?

Aside from the corrosion shortening the life of your hot water unit, if you don't replace the anode when it is due then you may be voiding or shortening the warranty period on your unit.

How do I check the condition of my anode?

If you think that your unit has a problem, or if you can't remember the last time that you had the anode replaced then you can have a plumber come out and inspect your unit. Sometimes you may even find a sticker on your unit that will tell you the last time the unit was serviced.

At The Plumbing Doctor, we include free inspections whenever we are on site doing a job for a customer and more often than not we can replace them and there.

Are there any other 'Secrets' I need to know about?

When you have the anode replaced you should also have a general service carried out which will also include servicing the valves on your unit (which release pressure when it gets too high) and adjusting the temperature.

Hot Water Cylinder Installations, Replacement or Servicing:

The Plumbing & Electrical Doctor can take care of all of your hot water requirements, and stock a range of units that will suit your needs. For your 5-year service, including anode replacement, valve servicing and temperature adjustment call us now – **13 10 91**