

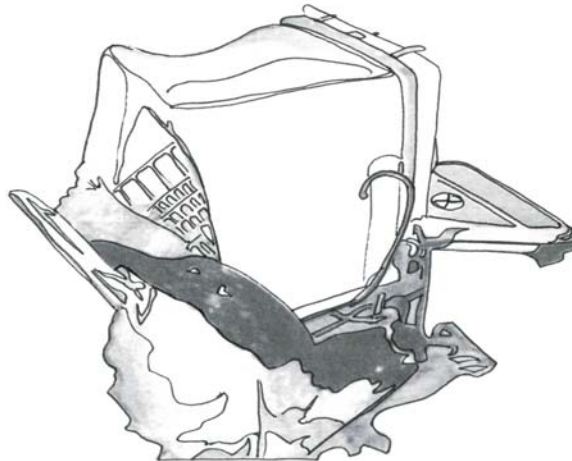


Tip Of The WEEK

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Do Dishwashers Explode?

Yes...dishwashers can explode. Your hot water heater produces hydrogen gas that can collect in water lines or dishwashers that has not been used for two or more weeks. Hydrogen gas is not soluble in water, so it remains in the plumbing system as a gas under pressure.



In most cases this gas will migrate up through the system where it is harmlessly expelled from the plumbing vents on the roof. However, when the water system is not used for a week or two, it can end up trapped in the plumbing lines. So, when a faucet (or a dishwasher) is turned on, the gas is pushed through the outlet rather than finding its way through the plumbing vent pipe. We theorize that the timer or the starter relay had enough heat or spark to ignite the gas.

When you or a home inspector go to start a dishwasher, ask yourself how long has the home been vacant. If more than a couple of weeks, you may need to think about getting rid of the gas before you turn on the dishwasher. The same is true when you return home from a vacation or open up a vacation home that had been vacant.

If you suspect hydrogen gas may have built up in the hot-water system, flush it out by turning on all the hot water faucets and letting them run for several minutes, and don't smoke while your doing it.



RENEWALS