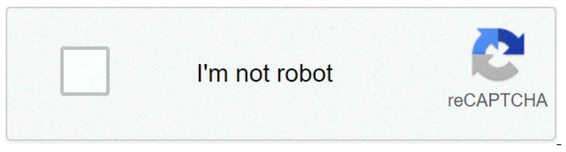

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Why does my propane water heater keep going out

Propane water heaters and electric water heaters are used to heat water for your shower needs. Below are the comparison between propane water heaters and electric water heaters.The Two Ways of Heating WaterThere are two main ways of heating water, by using and electric water heater and by using a propane water heater. Electric water heater heats water through the electric coils that is located inside your water tank. When electricity is applied on the electric could of the electric water heater, the coil becomes hot enough to heat the water inside the water tank. Propane water heaters, on the other hand, uses propane gas to heat water. A propane water heater consists of a propane tank where the propane gas is stored, a burner and a pilot light. The burner is located below the water tank and the water is heated by turning on the pilot light which will then light up the propane gas.Choosing a propane water heater instead of an electric water heater will cost you more during installation. However, due to the energy efficiency of propane water heaters when compared to electric water heaters, having a propane water heater will save you money in the long run. Propane water heaters can also last as long as ten years compared to electric water heaters that can only last up to four years making propane fueled water heaters more cost-efficient compared to electric water heaters.Energy EfficiencyPropane water heaters is more energy efficient than electric water heaters. You can heat your water tank in less time using propane water heater rather than an electric water heater. The longer period it takes for an electric water heater to heat your water tank means higher energy bills. Also, using electricity to produce heat is the most expensive method to create heat as well as the most energy consuming.Benefits of Electric Water HeatersElectric water heaters are easy to install and cheaper compared to buying a propane water heater. Electric water heaters do not require propane gas tanks which has the tendency to explode when handled improperly.Benefits of Propane Water HeatersPropane water heaters take less space to install compared to an electric water heater. Propane water heaters are also cheaper to maintain and operate and can heat a tank full of water twice as fast compared to using electric water heaters.Disadvantages of Electric and Propane Water HeatersDespite the advantage of propane water heaters to electric water heaters, propane water heaters also have its disadvantages. Propane water heaters require a propane tank, which when mishandled can lead to explosive results. You will also need a propane gas line in order to use propane to heat your water. If you choose to use a propane tank, you may have to wait for the propane gas tank to be delivered to you in the event that you ran out of propane gas. Propane gas tanks need to be installed outdoor and should be vented in order to avoid the propane gas tank from exploding in case of a gas leak.On the other hand, electric water heaters are expensive to operate and maintain, breaks down faster than propane water heaters and the least eco-friendly method of heating your water. Nothing will wake you up faster than turning on the shower and discovering there’s no hot water. It could be an indication that it’s time to replace your water heater.The cost of a water heater depends on several factors, such as the type of tank and the labor to install the unit. Storage water tanks average between $650 and $850. Tankless water heaters, which do not store water but use special coils to heat water when you need it, cost between $160 and $1,500.The nationwide average cost of a water heater is $1,005, including installation.With such an array of options, shopping for a new water heater overwhelms some people. They have to pick a unit with the capacity to handle the volume of hot water used in the home and one that fits in the designated space in the house.The obvious difference between traditional storage water heaters and tankless heaters is the size of the units. But the way they heat the water also differs. Storage water heaters store water and keep it heated at all times. Tankless water heaters use super-heated coils to heat water on demand. As a result, tankless water heaters are smaller. Storage water heaters generally cost less and handle large volumes of water better than tankless water heaters, making them a popular choice for families. However, tankless water heaters tend to be more energy-efficient and have a longer life span.Water heater installation costsIt is possible for a homeowner to install a water heater on his own, but most people hire a professional and need to consider the installation cost when shopping for a system. Installation costs vary depending on the price of labor, the type of water heater, the condition of the existing plumbing, and the permits required.On average, a 40-gallon water heater and installation will run you $950. The average cost of a tankless water heater and installation is $1,700.Gas vs. electric vs. solarThe power source for water heaters can come from gas, electricity or solar energy. Gas water heaters are less energy-efficient than electric ones, but gas heats up water quicker and often costs less. Solar-powered water heaters use energy from the sun and can be up to 50 percent more efficient than gas and electric heaters. But they may not provide enough energy to heat the water on cloudy days, especially during peak use.Signs of a failing water heaterHomeowners wondering whether it’s time to replace the water heater can look for certain signs that indicate the unit is failing. These include leaks coming from the tank, water pooling on the floor around the unit, and rust-tainted water. Failing water heaters also make rumbling or banging sounds and stop heating as efficiently as they once did.Even if the water heater doesn’t show these signs, it may be time to replace the unit if it’s past its life expectancy. Storage water heaters last 10 years on average, and tankless systems last between 10 and 20 years.Tips for choosing a water heaterBefore shopping for a water heater, evaluate your water usage. This information will help you select a water heater that has the capacity you need, especially during peak morning and evening hours.When selecting a water heater, it’s also important to consider the available space for the unit, as well as the existing plumbing hookups and power supply. Switching from a storage tank water heater to a tankless unit or replacing an electric system with a gas one may require additional work to make the area compatible with the new system.Use Bankrate’s calculator to figure out what the monthly payment will be on your new mortgage. Photo: istockphoto.comQ. We just bought a house, and the previous owners told us that the water heater is about six years old. Does that mean we’ll have to replace it soon? How long does a water heater last?A. As long as it’s still heating water sufficiently, without leaks or strange noises, you might still get a few more years of service from it. A water heater’s useful life varies, depending on the type of water heater, the quality of the unit, and how well it’s been maintained.A traditional tank-type water heater lasts an average of eight to 12 years.Inside the tank, an anode rod protects the interior lining by attracting all corrosive particles to itself through a process called electrolysis. When the rod has corroded to such an extent that it can no longer do its job, those particles settle at the bottom of the water tank, where they eventually destroy the lining. Once corrosion starts inside the tank, the water heater has entered into its final stage of life.It might be time to call a proGet free, no-commitment repair estimates from licensed plumbing experts near you. + Photo: istockphoto.comA tankless water heater can last up to 20 years, sometimes even longer.Also called “on-demand” water heaters, these appliances do not work continuously to maintain a supply of hot water—and, as a result, they last longer than their tank-style counterparts. Eventually, though, tankless water heaters (which do not use anode rods) will also suffer from corrosion and require replacement.Your existing water heater’s serial number holds the clue to its age.Even if you can’t track down the documentation for your current appliance, you can examine the serial number, which consists of a letter followed by a series of numerals, located on the upper portion of the water heater to determine when it was manufactured. Typically, the letter stands for the month—“A” for January, “B” for February, and so on, through “L” for December—and the next two numbers indicate the year it was made. A serial number that leads with “A10,” for example, was manufactured in January 2010. This rule of thumb applies to most hot water heater manufacturers, but you can confirm this on the company’s website if you have any doubts.As you enter the second half of your water heater’s life, watch for the signs of an aging appliance.Should you notice any of the following, start shopping for a replacement before you get caught by surprise.A banging or rumbling noise often occurs near the end of a heater’s lifespan. While manufacturers recommend annual flushing of a tank-style water heater—and it’s a requirement for keeping a warranty in effect—few people actually follow that suggestion, so calcium buildup from hard water collects in the bottom of the tank. The sediment builds, hardens, and eventually forms a thick crust that can cause the water heater to creak and bang when in use.Tinted hot water, either red or dirty yellow, coming from any faucet could mean rust. It’s important to determine whether the discoloration also appears when the cold water is running; if not, your problem probably originates inside the water heater rather than within rusting galvanized piping.A drop in water temperature: If water doesn’t heat up as much as it used to or for as long, the water heater may be nearing the end of its service life.Water pooling around the base of a water heater tank also suggests bad news. First, check to make sure the leak isn’t coming from a fitting or valve that just needs to be tightened or replaced; call in a professional to check out the problem and perform any necessary maintenance. If you find the leak comes from the tank itself, it may be cracked or corroded internally.Water quality and location can affect a water heater’s life.Hard water wreaks havoc on a water heater and can reduce its service life by two or more years. Likewise, water heaters located in garages or crawl spaces, where the temperature drops significantly, have to work harder to heat the water, and they tend to wear out more quickly than units installed in a temperature-controlled house. If either of those elements factor into your setup, start looking for end-of-life warning signs earlier than the manufacturer recommends.Call the manufacturer if the water heater is still under warranty.While the above issues can signal the end of an aging water heater’s life, if your unit is only a few years old, the problem could be repairable. It may be worth calling the manufacturer or a plumber to check the appliance out before you invest in a new model.Start thinking about replacing your water heater two years before the end of its predicted lifespan.When a tank-style water heater approaches eight to 10 years of age, or a tankless water heater approaches 15 to 18 years of age, it’s time to start thinking about replacing it—not only to avoid the annoyance of breakage and the inconvenience of having no hot water, but also to minimize energy consumption. After several years of use, either type of water heater is subject to mineral deposits and sediment buildup that can cause it to require more power to heat water, reducing the appliance’s overall efficiency. Install a replacement, though, and the combination of a decade’s worth of technological advances and the new model’s clean interior mean that your utility bill is sure to drop in the months to follow.It might be time to call a proGet free, no-commitment repair estimates from licensed plumbing experts near you. + When the temperature dips, there's nothing like the comfort and warmth that a gas heater provides. Yet, anyone who has spent any time shopping for one understands that not all heaters are created equally. You want a heater that's designed to fit your needs, look great in your space and work within your lifestyle. This isn't an investment to rush into. Before you shell out your money and install one in your home, read this guide to make sure you're getting the best gas heater for your needs. You might think that a gas heater could work well in your space, but is the heater made for it? As you research your options, you'll soon realize that gas heaters are categorized by their heating capacities. This is true for older models, secondhand gas heaters and those you buy new. While this has much to do with the size of a room they're designed to warm, the rating also measures how quickly they emit heat. Some gas heaters, most notably portable and unflued ones, don't work in a particularly small space. The reason? They produce emissions that could be harmful if there isn't enough air circulating in the area. If it's quick heating you're looking for, you'll need as large of a model as possible, but you need to make sure the space is large enough to disperse any off gassing. Take an inventory of your space and determine if a gas heater is ideal for it. If so, you're ready to compare specifics. Naturally, you want to get the biggest gas heater for your money, right? Not so fast. It's easy to spend a fortune on an oversized one, thinking it'll pump out hot air like a champ and work like a powerhorse. But don't forget the fact that it can also be a costly and unnecessary expense. Conversely, the opposite also holds true. In an effort to save a few bucks, you could opt for a model that's far too small for your needs. Peruse gas heater reviews and other resources to understand the kWh heat output rating of each model you're considering. As a rule of thumb, one kWh will heat a space of around 10 square meters. You'll also need to take into consideration the climate where you live, how tall your ceilings are, your home's current level of insulation and how much direct sunlight the area gets in order to understand what size of gas heater you require. There are two main types of gas heaters you'll select between when choosing yours. One is a flued gas heater, and the other is a portable model. The former works via the installation of a flue that runs from your gas heater to the outdoors, allowing exhaust gas to travel outside of your home. While it can be an effective solution, it also requires construction, meaning that it's not ideal if you're renting or are in a space temporarily. As an alternative, you can go with a portable gas heater that's unflued. As implied, one benefit of this type is that you can move it from room to room, store it away when it's not in use and bring it with you when you move. Portable heaters also produce quicker, more direct heat than their flued counterparts. Moreover, though they may cost you more at the onset, they're cost-effective to run and can save you money on gas heater maintenance in the long-term. On the other hand, a flued gas heater is more efficient at removing harmful emissions. You can also use this type in spaces where portable models can't usually work, including bedrooms and bathrooms. Whether you ultimately go with a flued option or a portable one is determined by your usage requirements. There are specific elements you should look for in each model. With a portable gas heater, look for one that operates via convection. These include a fan to speed up the movement of hot air and often come equipped with a remote control to help you regulate the temperature. The alternative is a radiant-convection model, which works in a similar manner but uses an exposed panel to emit heat in a room. These can be cheaper to buy but often don't have automated add-ons, such as thermostats. If you're shopping for a flued gas heater, look for one that comes equipped with a thermostat, remote control, programmable timer and electronic ignition. These are often integrated with smart home apps to make them as effective and usable as possible. Depending on the model you select, you can expect to spend between $400 and $2,500 on your new gas heater. Take the time to research your options, understand your space limitations and engage the assistance of professional gas heater installation services as you move forward. Then, you'll be able to comfortably and confidently relax in your newly warm space.

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