

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Suggested Procedure for Hot Water Tank Flushing

1. If electric, turn off power to the water heater element or if gas, set the control to the lowest temperature or off position.
2. Turn off the valve on the water inlet pipe delivering water to the hot water tank.
3. Open the faucet at the base of the water heater, and allow water in the water heater tank to drain. It may be necessary to open a hot water tap at one of the distribution system fixtures to relieve the vacuum that is created as water drains from the tank.
4. After the tank is empty, close the faucet.
5. Open the water inlet pipe valve to refill the tank.
6. Repeat steps 2 through 5 until the water being discharged from the boiler drain is free of any debris or turbidity.
7. Open the water inlet pipe valve, and turn the water heater control back to the operating position.

(This procedure is located on the DEQ Website at
<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-wd-gws-wcu-disinfectsection3.pdf>)

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