

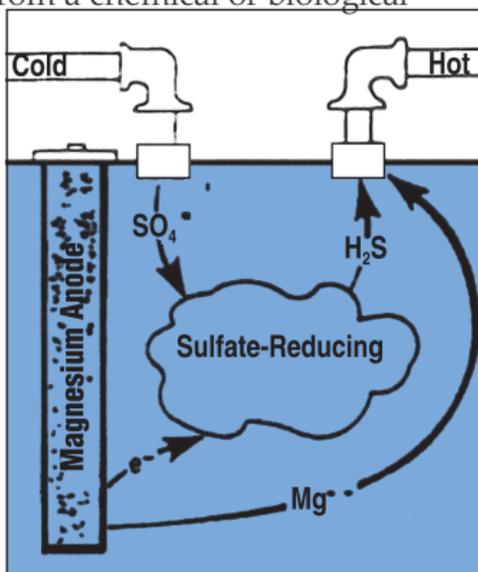
Does Your Water Smell Like Rotten Eggs

Marina Coast Water District customers may be experiencing a rotten egg odor coming mainly from the hot water.

What is the smell?

The rotten egg odor is caused by hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) gas. Although the smell is offensive, the gas is not harmful at the concentrations found in your water.

Hydrogen sulfide results from a chemical or biological reaction between sulfur, bacteria and electrons. Sulfates and a nonharmful bacteria are naturally found in water supplies. Bacteria together with energy from electrons turn sulfate into H_2S . Electrons are usually produced by corrosion of the "sacrificial" anode in your water heater. (Sacrificial because its purpose is to corrode so that the inside of your water heater won't.)



What is the solution?

By substantially reducing the sulfur, bacteria or electrons in your hot water heater, you can control the odor problem.

RECOMMENDED STEPS FOR ELIMINATING ODOR:

- ✓ Flush out the sediment (a breeding ground for bacteria) in your tank. Flushing is not a simple matter of opening the drain valve. Specialized tools are usually required. Contact a reputable water heater repair service that specializes in eliminating odor.
- ✓ Replace the anode in your tank with a zinc bearing anode or a power rod that will provide protection from corrosion without supporting the sulfate-reduction reaction that causes H_2S gas. Many types of anodes are available, but use one recommended by a qualified plumber. (The anode must be the zinc type.)
- ✓ Add one to two pints of hydrogen peroxide (non-toxic) in your tank for one hour to kill the bacteria. (Recolonization will most likely occur, which is why hydrogen peroxide should be done with the other steps.)

Note: Each step must be completed in order to effectively eliminate the odor.

What we're doing

We're adjusting our treatment system to control H_2S formation. If you continue to have the smelly water problem, please contact us.



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