

Install Water Heater Properly, With Permit

Most people wouldn't classify a water heater as a time bomb, but that's exactly what you could have if it is installed wrong.

Think about a house that has been hit by a tornado, that is exactly what a house with a water heater install incorrectly could look like if there is a problem with the pressure relief valve. A relief valve lets the pressure off the tank in the event there is a problem with the heater and it doesn't shut off. As pressure builds the relief valve is to go off and release the pressure. If this doesn't work it could just blow the entire side off your house. While this is rare, it can and has happened.

In an effort to save a buck, more homeowners are installing their water heaters or hiring companies that skirt local building codes because they will do the work for less money. We see all kinds of things hooked up wrong during our inspections. From the flues not installed correctly to using incorrect materials.

Installation of a water heater can cost \$200 or more. If the device is installed improperly, an inspector can easily spot the problem. The City of Marion codes require a plumbing permit and inspections when anyone is installing a water heater, or a furnace.

Although most reputable plumbing companies will get permits, some plumbing companies or handyman, may try and install water heaters without the permit. Since there is a charge for these permits, this may allow them to undercut the competition, at the risk of the homeowner. If you have a water heater installed, you should ask for a copy of the plumbing permit and ask for a final inspection once the water heater installation is completed.

For more information contact the City of Marion Building Department.