

## Hot Water Odor

If you have the smell of rotten eggs coming from your hot water, how do you rid the system of the contamination? John & Darleen Himmelheber, WBCCI # 8492, had this problem and tried baking soda in the fresh and hot water tanks to no avail. The rotten egg odor is really hydrogen sulfide, resulting from the mixture of high sulfur water and the processes in the hot water tank. According to the **Atwood** Water Heater brochure the following steps must be performed to rid your system of the unpleasant smell:



1. Remove the drain plug (left hand in photo) from the water heater tank, drain the water out, and replace the plug.
2. Remove the pressure-temperature release valve (right hand in photo) at the top of the tank.
3. Fill the tank through the relief valve hole with a 2 to 1 ratio of white vinegar to water. In a 6 gallon tank this would require gallons white vinegar and 2 gallons water.
4. Reinstall the pressure-temperature relief valve.
5. Cycle the water heater by heating and cooling in the normal manner. When the propane burner shuts off (water is heated), turn the system off and allow it to cool to ambient temperature each time. This should be done 4 to 5 times.
6. Remove the drain plug when the water has cooled and drain the tank.
7. Hook up the hose and turn on city water pressure to flush the water heater of any sediment through the drain opening. o this for approximately five minutes.
8. Replace the drain plug and refill the tank with sulfur-free fresh water.

Since very few municipal water systems contain sulfur, it is probable that a stay at a rural campground with high- sulfur content well water is where this problem is picked up. At check-in time ask the attendant whether they use municipal or well water. If they use well water, smell a glassful to see if it contains high sulfur. A move to another campground or using only on-board water will help avoid this annoying problem in the first place.

## Water Heater: Leaking Pressure-Temperature Relief Valve

A leaking relief valve does not necessarily indicate a faulty valve in need of replacement. The hot water tank is designed to function with an air pocket at the top. Over time the air is absorbed by the water. With no air pocket available, the heating water expands and increases pressure to the point that the relief valve does the job it was designed to do. Restore the air pocket and the valve should stop leaking.