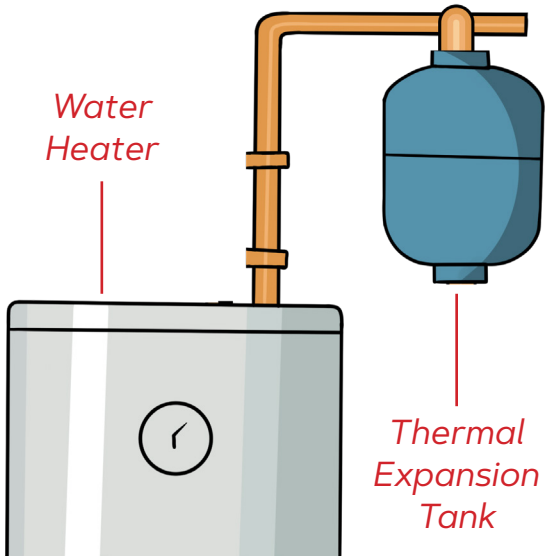
IMPORTANCE OF INSTALLING A THERMAL EXPANSION TANK

As part of the ongoing water system improvements happening in your area, the Clarksburg Water Board is installing new service lines with check valves. **It is recommended that you install a thermal expansion tank on the water heater in your home prior to being connected to the new service line.**

WHY DO I NEED TO DO THIS?

When the water heater raises the temperature of the water, the water expands and pressure increases in the plumbing system. The check valve that is installed on the water line - a common practice for utility systems - blocks the water from flowing back into the main line. That means the expanded water will have nowhere to go and pressure will continue to build. Depending on the condition of the plumbing, this increase in water pressure may lead to negative effects, such as:

- Intermittent discharge of water through the water heater's safety relief valve
- Leakage from other plumbing fixtures or piping
- Noisy operation of the plumbing system
- Damage to water heater or other appliances



These negative effects can be mitigated by reducing the water heater's temperature and/or installing a thermal expansion tank to accommodate the increased pressure.

To avoid potential issues with your hot water tank, it is recommended that the thermal expansion tank be installed prior to being switched over to a new service line.

Clarksburg Water Board | 304-623-3711 | 1001 S Chestnut St. | Clarksburg, WV 26301 | **customer.service@clarksburgwater.com**

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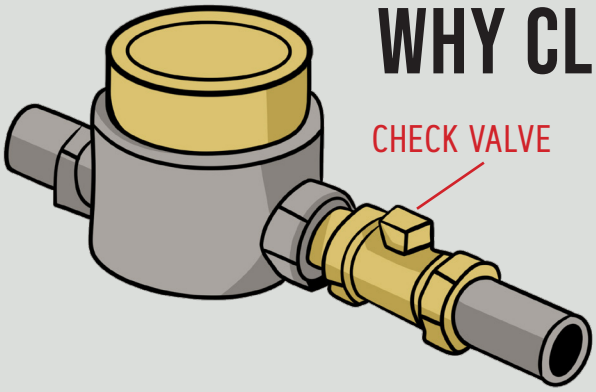


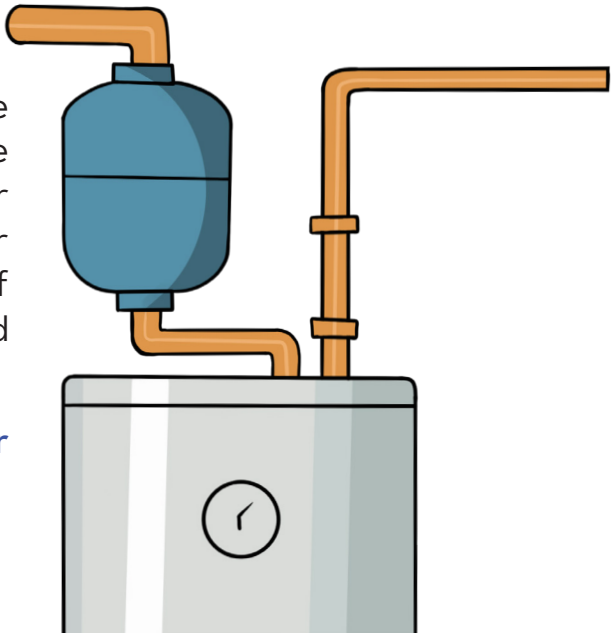
WHY CLARKSBURG WATER BOARD IS INSTALLING CHECK VALVES

The federal Clean Water Act requires the use of check valves to prevent water from flowing back into the public water system.

THERMAL EXPANSION

When the water heater raises the temperature of the water, the water expands and pressure increases in the plumbing system. Since the check valve blocks the water from flowing back into the main, this expanded water will have nowhere to go. Depending on the condition of the plumbing, the increase in water pressure may lead to negative effects, such as:

- Intermittent discharge of water through the water heaters safety relief valve
- Leakage from other plumbing fixtures of piping
- Noisy operation of the plumbing system
- Damage to water heater or other appliances



These negative effects can be mitigated by reducing the water heater's temperature and/or installing a thermal expansion tank to accommodate the increased pressure. **Any plumbing modification required due to the installation of the check valve is the responsibility of the property owner.**

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