Water Heater Maintenance Log

The once-a-year flush, step by step — plus a log so you never guess the last date again.
From vitaldwelling.com — "How to Flush a Water Heater".

THE FLUSH, STEP BY STEP (ABOUT 1 HOUR)

1. Cool it down	Run a hot tap for a few minutes, or wait a few hours after switching off.
2. Power OFF	Electric: breaker OFF at the panel. Gas: control knob to PILOT.
3. Cold supply OFF	Close the cold-water valve on top of the heater.
4. Open a hot faucet	Leave it open in the house so air can enter and the tank drains smoothly.
5. Hose on the valve	Route it to a floor drain, driveway, or a bucket to inspect the sediment.
6. Drain the tank	Open the drain valve fully. Cloudy, gritty water at first is normal.
7. Pulse-flush	Cold supply ON in 20-30 second bursts until the water runs perfectly clear.
8. Check anode rod	Tank empty = the moment to inspect it (see below). Then close the valve.
9. Refill, THEN power	Tank is full when the open faucet runs steady. Only then restore power/gas.

NEVER turn the power back on with the tank empty or partly full.

Electric elements burn out in seconds without water around them. Refill first — always. Tank water can scald: wear gloves.

ANODE ROD CHECK (EVERY FLUSH, OR EVERY 2 YEARS)

Healthy rod: thick, with surface pitting — put it back in.

Spent rod: eaten down to the thin steel core wire, or crusted over — replace it now.

A fresh rod (about $30) is what keeps the tank itself from rusting. It is the cheapest insurance on the appliance.

MY MAINTENANCE LOG

Date	Flush done?	Anode checked?	Notes (sediment, rod condition, parts replaced)

Full step-by-step guide with photos and product links: vitaldwelling.com/how-to-flush-a-water-heater/