

Does your water heater look like this?

If so, it's a gas water heater and you should read the information below.

Number "1" is pointing to what you might call the "chimney". Number "2" is the gas pipe. If you have a venting system that looks like this your water heater is an atmospherically vented gas burning appliance. These are very common, over 90% of the homes that make hot water with gas use this style.

Often these types of water heaters are vented in combination with another appliance, most commonly a furnace or boiler. Some homes have high efficiency furnaces or boilers vented separately from traditional water heaters.

This leaves what is referred to in the industry as an "orphaned water heater". Most orphaned water heaters send products of combustion (smoke) up the "chimney". For various reasons, some may vent products of combustion to the inside of the home instead of up the vent and outside.

Doing a visual inspection of the vent (metal chimney) and looking for rust is something you can do yourself. Rust is often a sign of drafting (venting) problems. But just because there are no visual signs does not guarantee your gas burning appliances are venting properly.

Have your heating professional check to be sure your water heater and any other atmospherically drafted appliances are venting properly, especially if your water heater has #1 and #2 as shown above.

If you have any questions or concerns please call us at 866-NJSMART.

