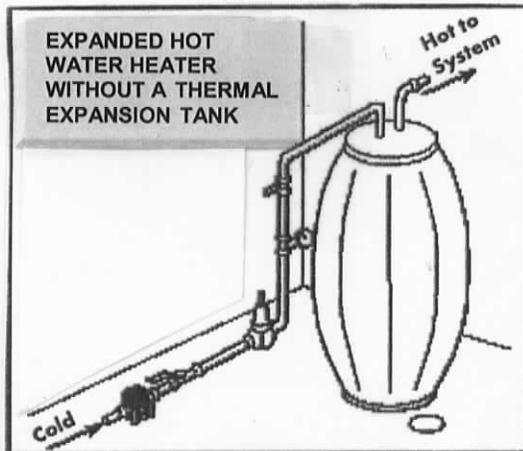


THERMAL EXPANSION



Owners and occupants of sites that have backflow prevention assemblies need to be aware that additional plumbing adjustments may be required to prevent thermal expansion damage. When a backflow prevention assembly is installed a "closed" plumbing system is created. This means that any increased pressure caused by the expansion of heated water from the hot water tank or attic pipes heated by the sun has no where to escape.

This can lead to serious consequences such as a ruptured or distorted hot water tank or a collapsed flue within the tank which can lead to the releases of toxic gases, such as carbon monoxide.

A small tank, called a thermal expansion tank, is usually installed near the hot water tank. The thermal expansion tank has a built-in bladder that absorbs any excess pressure and then gradually releases it back into the plumbing system. The Uniform Plumbing Code requires all plumbing systems that are classified as "closed" systems to install thermal expansion tanks.

To ensure that your home is safe, ask a qualified plumber about thermal expansion protection.

