

Rusty Hot Water in My Ballard Home Causes and Solutions Salish Plumbing

Rusty or brown-tinted hot water in a Ballard home is a symptom worth taking seriously. It indicates that iron is entering the water supply from somewhere in the system, either from deteriorating galvanized supply pipes or from a corroding water heater tank interior. Identifying which source is responsible directs the appropriate solution, and Salish Plumbing Co diagnoses this issue systematically to avoid recommending unnecessary work. The simplest way to differentiate between galvanized pipe contamination and water heater contamination is to check whether the rust-colored water appears in both hot and cold or only in hot. If both hot and cold run discolored, the source is in the supply pipes, which in a Ballard home built before 1965 almost certainly means galvanized steel that has corroded enough to release iron into the water. If only the hot water is discolored, the water heater is the more likely source. Water heater contamination typically indicates one of two things: significant sediment accumulation at the bottom of the tank (which can be flushed out if not too severe) or interior tank corrosion that signals the tank is near the end of its service life. A tank with active interior corrosion is not safely serviceable and should be replaced. Flushing a tank with heavy sediment may improve the situation temporarily, but the condition of the anode rod and the tank interior should be assessed to determine whether replacement is the better choice. Salish Plumbing Co | Shoreline, WA | (206) 867-0624

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Salish Plumbing Co provides clear diagnosis and honest recommendations [Plumber Ballard wa](#) for rusty water situations in Ballard homes. No repair is recommended without the diagnostics that support it. Call (206) 867-0624 for rusty water diagnosis in Ballard and North Seattle. Salish Plumbing Co | Shoreline, WA | (206) 867-0624