

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Line : : **Gas-powered Water Heaters**

Technical Notice No. 15

Date: 16/04/2018

CLOGGED VENT

SYMPTOMS

SLOW RECOVERY TIME

CAUSE

Obstructions in the vent pipe can restrict the air flow to your water heater. This will cause the burner to operate poorly. It could mean a reduced amount of hot water. Badly clogged vents will result in dangerous gases building up in the home. Once the gas is burned the fumes need somewhere to go

FIX

Performing a Low Tech Draft Test

When the burner is on for a few minutes you should be able to feel air being drawn into the fume hood. Put your hand next to the vent hood without touching it. Hold your hand sideways and cup it slightly. You should never be able to feel air pushing out of the fume hood. This is called a 'down draft' or 'back draft' and could be serious.

You should be able to feel the air being drawn into the vent hood with your hand. If you can't feel any air being drawn in or you feel pushing back there is a draft problem.

If your vent is not installed in a manner that allows the free flow for the exhaust it will need to be corrected. Reduce if necessary the number and location of the elbows and make sure the ducts are pitched correctly.