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How To Repair A Hot Water Tank

We frankly offer this recipe with a good deal of reservation. Our feeling is that, should an old ferrous-type water tank, which has neither permanent insulation nor glass lining, develop a large hole, it is far better to buy a new tank than to spend money repairing the old one. However, it is necessary to know emergency alternatives, and so we provide the following procedure.

Utensils

Ice pick or center punch
Hammer
Wrench

Ingredients

Several self-tapping tank
Plugs of various sizes
Ace plugs of various sizes

Approximate Time: 30 Minutes

1. Shut off water supply.
2. Locate leak in tank (Fig. 92A).
3. If leak is small, insert ice pick or center punch and enlarge slightly.
4. Insert smallest self-tapping plug (Fig. 92B), turning clockwise with adjustable wrench until washer bulges slightly. Do not overtighten.
5. If hole is large to begin with, it will be necessary to use a larger self-tapping plug. To find the plug of the right size, it is advisable to start with the smallest and work from there.
6. Once you have found the right plug, insert as in step 4.
7. If hole is extremely large, it may be necessary to ream out and then insert a large bolt-type Ace-plug or utility plug (Fig. 92C). But if the hole is really that large, it is best to start shopping for a new tank.
8. Turn on water and test plugged hole for leakage.

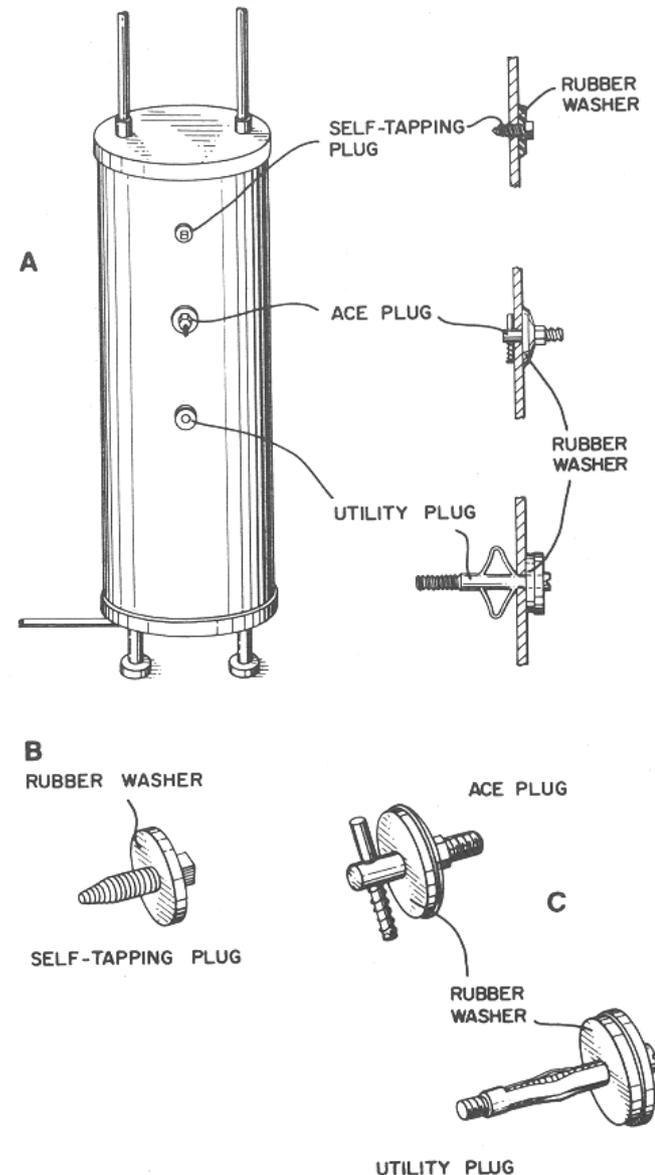


Figure 92.
How To Repair a Home Hot Water Tank