Background- Due to some water heater brands having an anode rod that is combined with the hot water outlet nipple, a question arose in my mind as to whether an anode placed in a chamber exterior to the tank would still provide cathodic protection to the tank. If it were to work it would provide extended water heater life by making it easy to replace the anode rod at periodic intervals.

No one seemed to be able to answer my question, so I decided to make my own water heater the guinea pig.

I removed the anode rod from my tank and installed a galvanized nipple and cap in its place.

A new anode rod was installed in the exterior chamber that was inserted into the cold feed to the water heaters bottom inlet.

The tank being used for this experiment is presently about 14 years old and has had its anode rod changed at regular intervals numerous times.

Presently there is no corrosion evident at any bimetal tank connections on the top of the tank and only slight discoloration at the T&P boss. The experiment calls for the inspection of the anode at regular intervals to determine rate of decay and to visually inspect tank connections for corrosion.

TITLE **anode experiment #1**			
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