

Testing an Expansion Vessel

Please note this is a guide to testing an expansion vessel only; we offer no guarantees that this is a definitive test as there may be other issues with the system contributing to the problem you are experiencing. For expert diagnosis, please call Glow Maintenance on 0208 607 0449 to arrange a visit.

For the heating system pressure to fall, water is coming out of the heating system; check for any obvious leaks on any of the radiator valves, and any obvious damp patches on the ceilings (indicating leaks above).

There are two other ways water can leak from the system, the first is if the expansion vessel has failed and the second is if the heat exchanger has split leaking water in to the condensate drain.

Testing an expansion vessel.

This can be tested only when the radiators are all cold.

- When the radiators are all cold, bleed them and then top up the boiler pressure to about 1/3 of the way up (around 1.2 bar).
- Turn on the heating and make sure all the radiators are on and heating up.
- If the expansion vessel is ok then the pressure should only rise by a small amount (maybe up to 2bar?)
- If the expansion vessel has failed then the pressure will rise within about 10mins or so to the red zone (around 3 bar); this in turn will open a safety valve that lets the excess water volume out (normally from a small copper pipe on the outside behind the boiler), to prevent seals in the boiler failing at a higher pressure.
- On cooling, there is now less water in the system and as it contracts the pressure will drop again to a lower level than it started.
- If the expansion vessel has failed then this and the pressure relief valve need replacing.

A split in the heat exchanger is much harder to identify, especially on a leak that drains the system over a few days (a small drip); and is the most unlikely scenario.

**** Glow Maintenance Ltd is licensed by the Gas Safe Register for both Gas and Plumbing, this means that we install Boilers, Central Heating, MegaFlos and Bathrooms to the highest standard.**

We cover all gas work from Landlords Safety Certificates to Boiler Repairs and Installations; we also cover Leaking Pipes and Taps; Floods and Blockages; Water Tanks and Cylinders.

IF YOUR PLUMBER IS NOT REGISTERED, ASK WHY!!! **