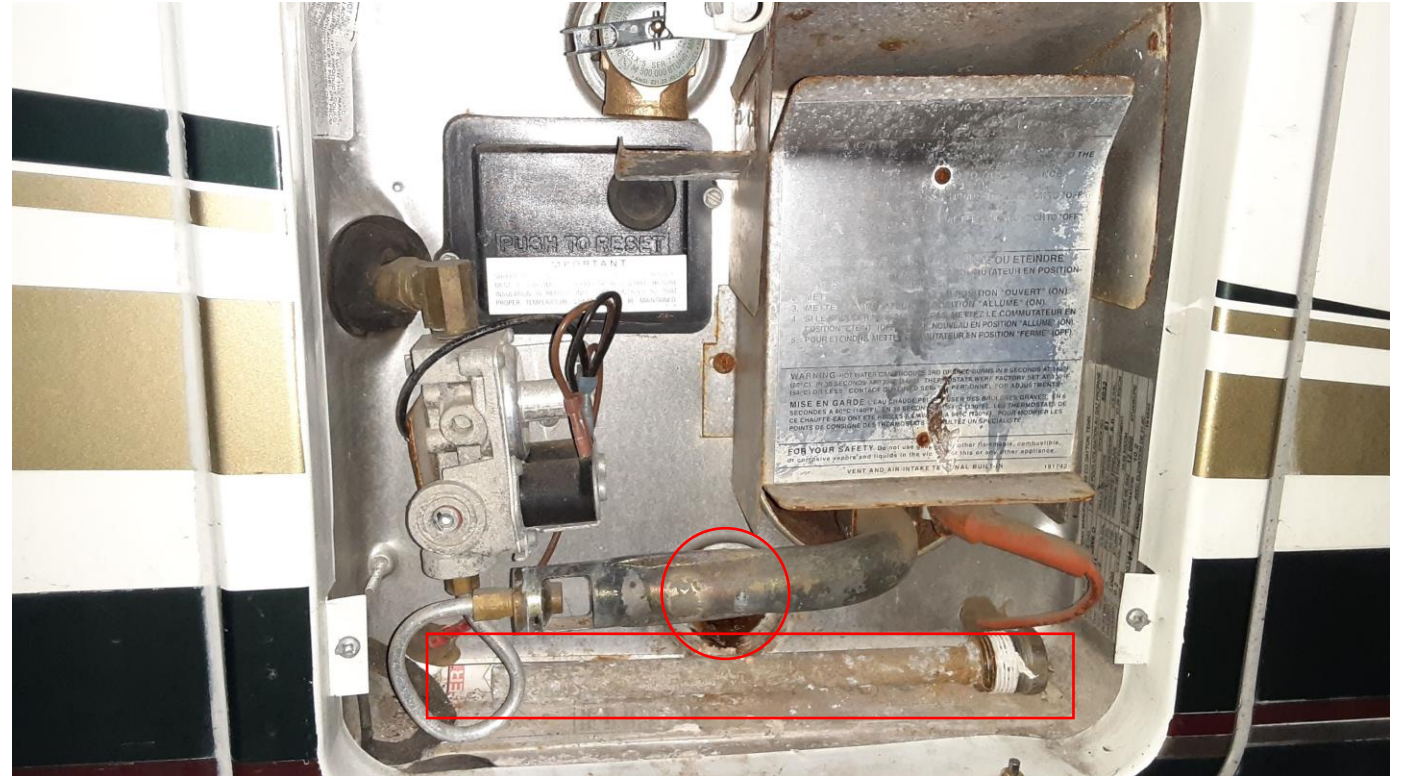
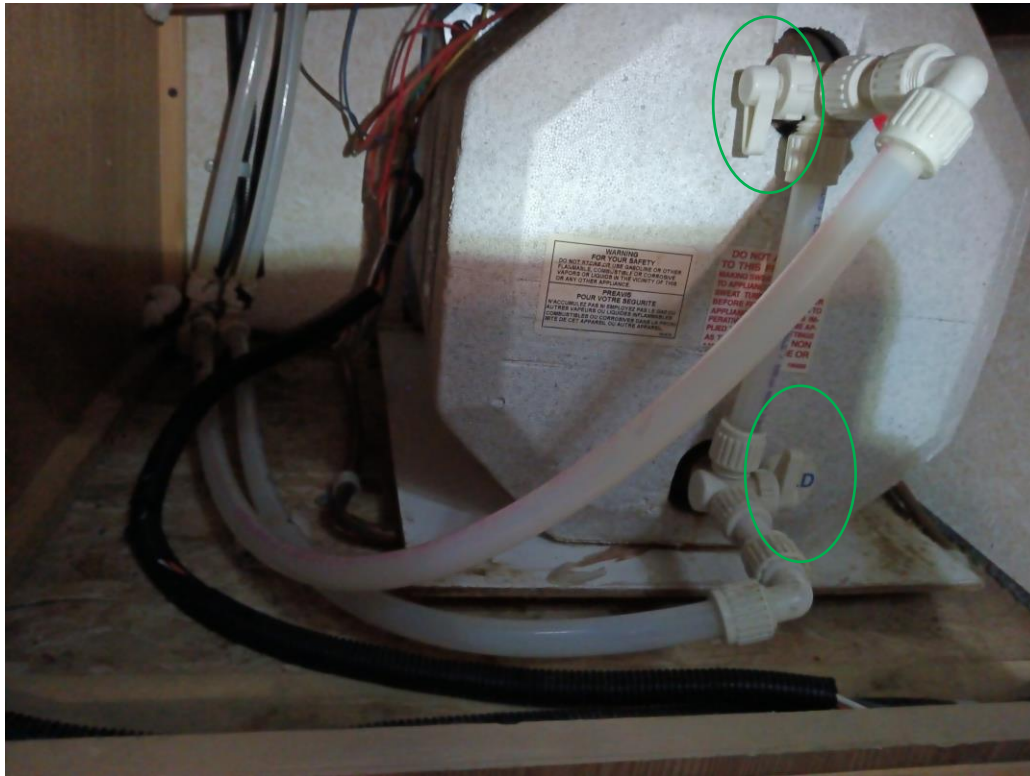


# Replacing the Suburban SW6D Hot Water Tank in a 2001 Rexhall Vision 26

Turn off the propane and bleed the system by lighting the stove burners until they extinguish. Turn off electricity to the coach.

Place the HW tank valves in the **bypass** condition.  
Remove the **anode rod** from the HW tank and drain.

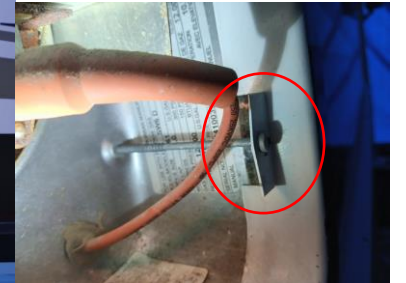


# Removing the Hot Water Heater Frame

Remove the 3 screws from the frame (Circled).

Work a thin putty knife around the edges to break the grip of the butyl adhesive underneath then add the plastic prybars and gently pry the cover off.

## Tools needed (Or similar)





# Remove the screws holding the tank to the RV frame.

The HW Tank heat deflector was removed to make screw removal easier.

Do not remove the 2 screws holding the wood mounting board in place. (I know this because I removed them and realized they were in there to hold the mounting board in place).



Clean the residual butyl tape from the coach using mineral spirits.



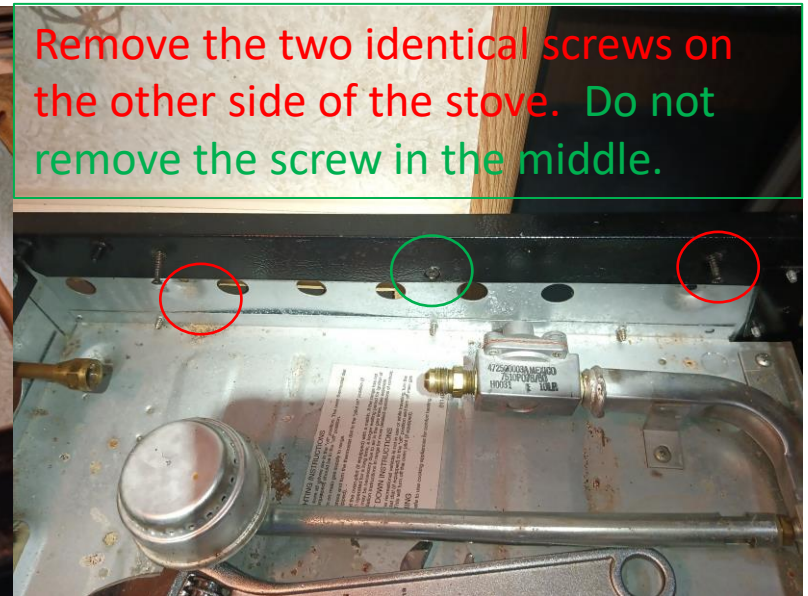
Remove the gas fitting with a 19 mm wrench.





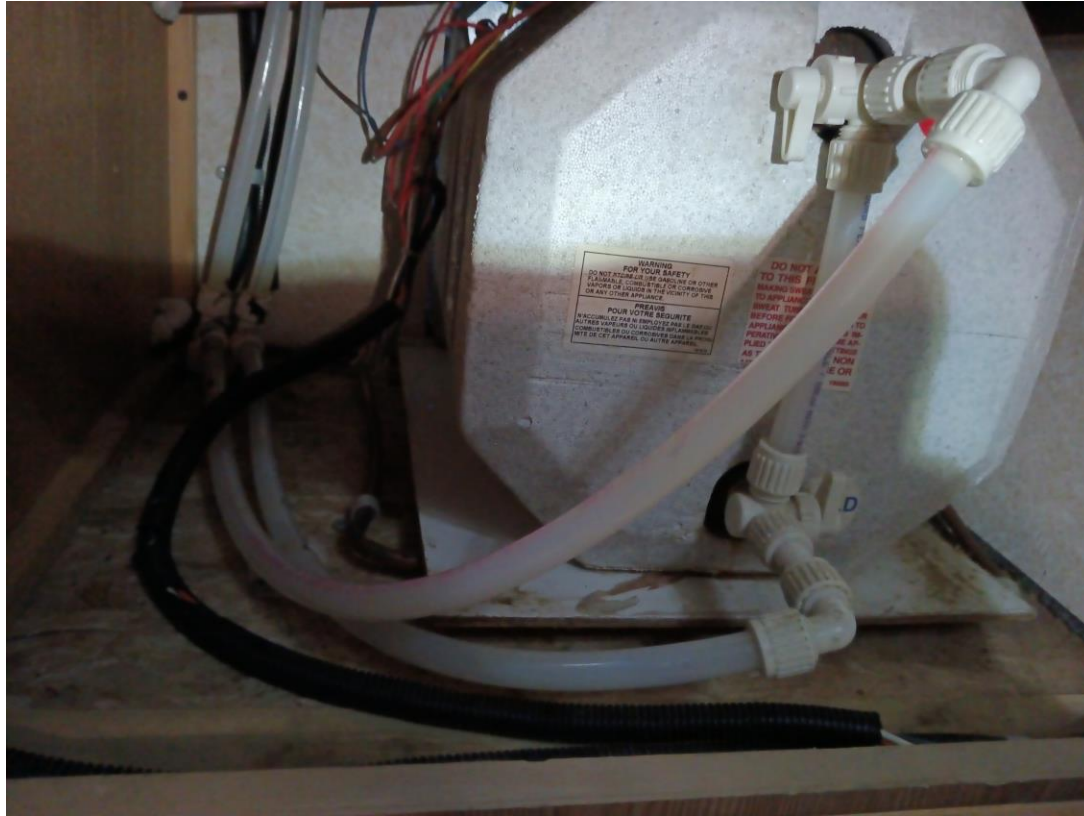
# Locate and disconnect the electrical connections.

You must remove the stove in order to get to the igniter box. This means the gas connection to the stove must be disconnected as well.



# Remove the Hot and Cold PEX tubing from the bypass valves.

A heat gun aids in softening the PEX so it can be pulled off the valves barbs.





Remove the tank by pulling it from outside the coach. If it's too difficult, break away the Styrofoam from the HW tank for easier removal.



Remove the bypass valves PEX tube in order to remove the valves from the tank.

The PEX will need to be heated in the middle and on one end to facilitate removal.



Install the valves on the new tank using Teflon tape on top of pipe dope.

Reinstall the PEX tubing between the bypass valves. A heat gun will be needed just like in the removal process.



# Install the new tank into the RV. Make the edges flush with the coach.

You may have to use a saber saw to enlarge the opening. (I did).  
Do not affix the tank with screws to the frame yet.



Make the electrical connections and dress the cables properly.



Make sure the bypass valves are not in the bypass condition then fill the HW tank with water and check for leaks. If no leaks continue on. If there are leaks then they need to be addressed. A possible cause is if the Flair-It fittings did not get tightened enough.



# Reconnect the propane line. There is no need to use propane rated Teflon tape on the threads.

Even though my old SW6D was replaced by a new SW6D the gas line did not exactly line up with the fitting on the new tank. I must have had to remove the tank 10 times and reform the copper propane line to get it to the point the threads would mate. I even had to cut away an area of Styrofoam on the tank. While performing this task I removed the **rubber grommet** from the propane line hole to make things easier. To reinstall the grommet grease it with a silicone grease. Don't worry about it not fitting back perfectly. It will be later sealed.



Reinstall the stove and its propane line. There is no need to use propane rated Teflon tape on the threads.

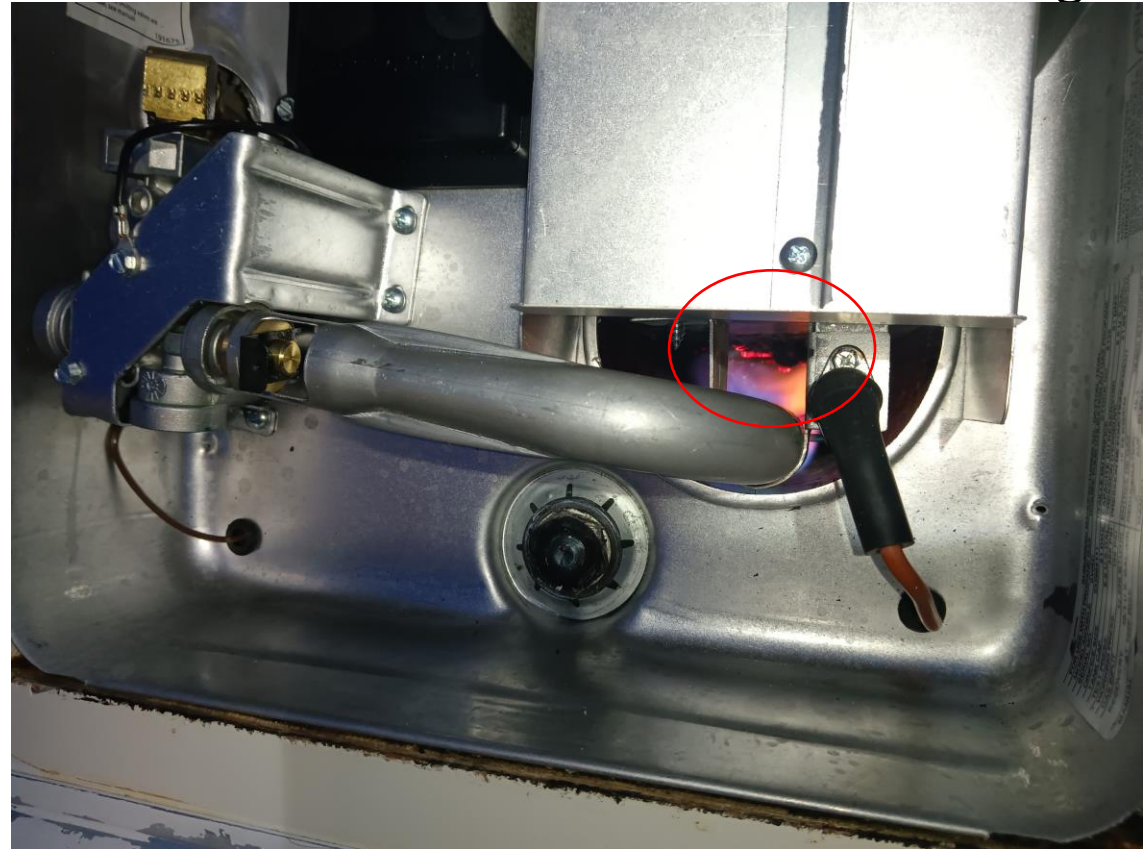


Turn on the propane and test for leaks using soapy water near the threads or better yet put your nose right to the fitting and smell. If gas is detected then more than likely the fitting requires tightening. If no gas is detected continue on.



# Fire up the HW Heater.

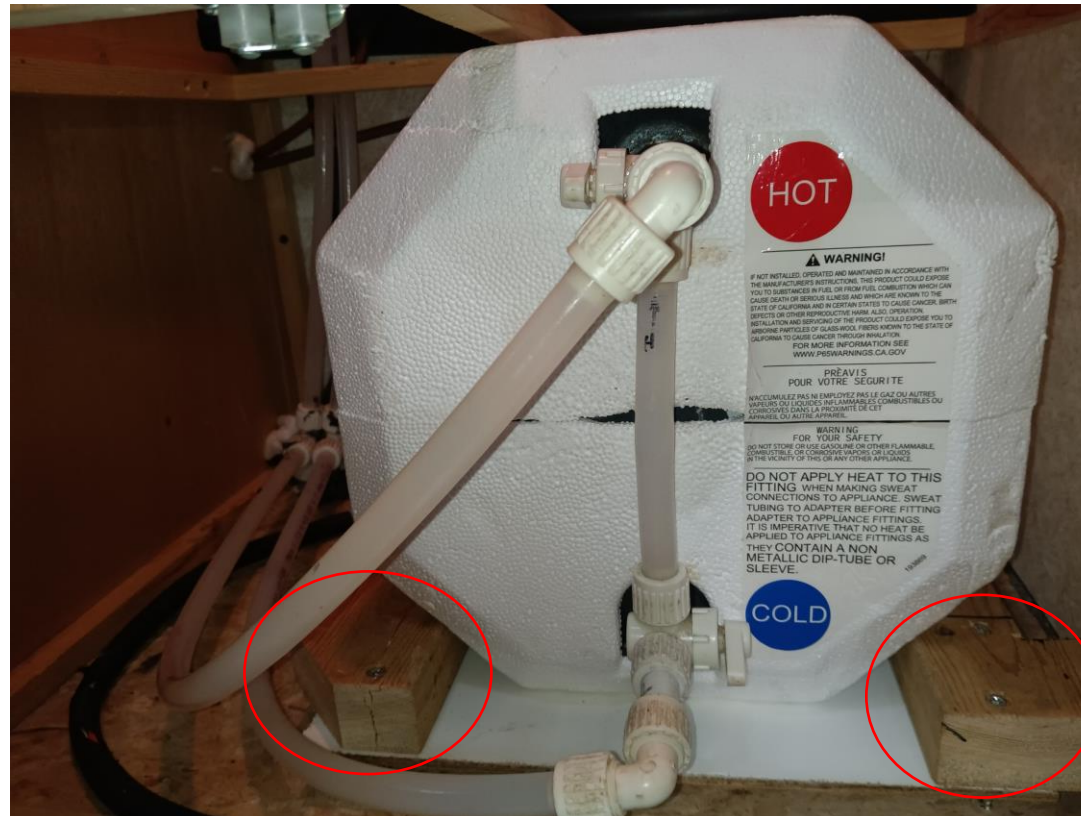
Lighting the stove before doing this step will most likely purge the propane system of air and ensure the water heater ignites the first time. You may see some **debris** burning in the chamber but this is normal for a new tank. Put a rag in the bottom of the compartment to catch any water thrown by the relief valve weeping when the heater comes up to full temp as explained in slide 23. Check for water leaks again and if none are found continue on.



Install **wood blocks** on both sides of the HW tank to prevent it from shifting while the RV is under way.

2x4s work well here.

There must be 2 screws per block to prevent the block from skewing.



Clean the cover of left over butyl tape using scraping tools and mineral spirits. If the and neoprene is damaged it will need to be removed as well.

[Link to Neoprene Tape](#)

[Link to Butyl Tape](#)





Install the Neoprene tape around the perimeter of the frame. DO NOT INSTALL THE BUYTL TAPE YET!

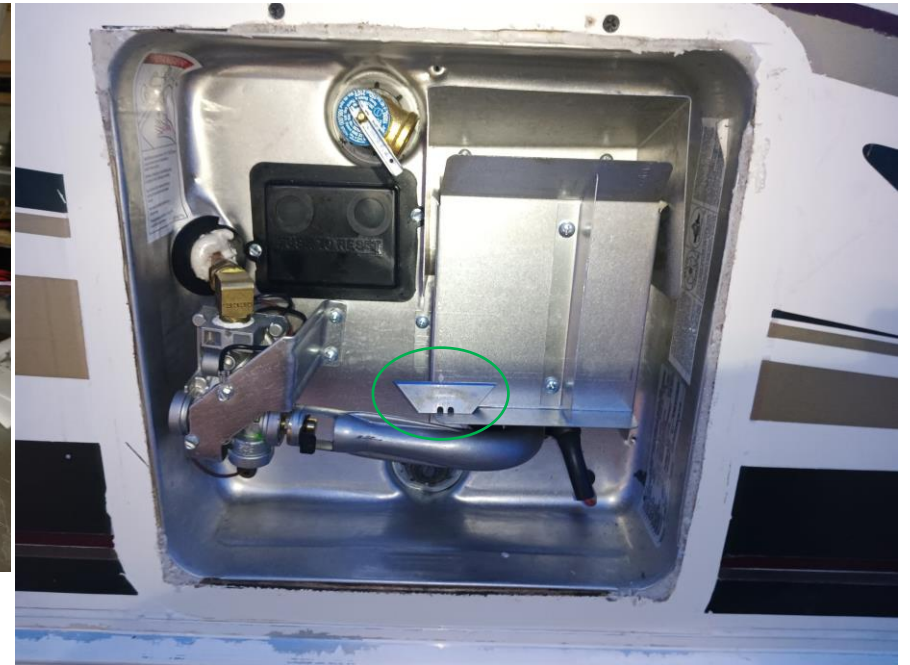




# Use Pestblock expanding foam to fill in any large gaps between the tank and coach.

Clean the excess silicone grease off the propane grommet with 99% isopropanol alcohol and fill in the gap with Pestblock.

After the foam has dried use a new **box cutter blade** and trim the excess.



# Test fit the frame to the HW tank. The neoprene tape should make it a snug fit.

Fill the gap shown in with silicone caulk. Slide your wetted finger over the silicone to make a flush bead. You don't want this bead to interfere with installation of the cover. Immediately wipe any excess silicone off the coach with 99% isopropanol alcohol to insure the butyl tape affixed to the cover sticks. This may be overkill since the frame will get silicone as well but better safe than sorry. When HW tanks reach their upper temp limit the relief valve will weep a bit water into the frame and you don't want to get that wood wet. It would eventually rot. (You may want to let the silicone dry before proceeding to the next step).



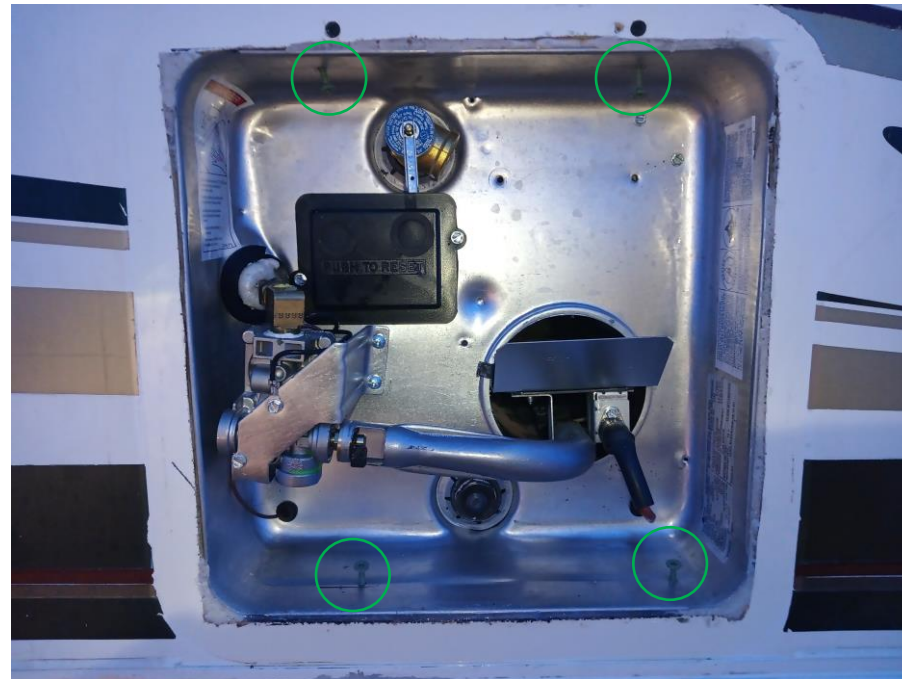


# Screw the HW tank to the coach frame.

The screws must be located outside the frame on the inside of the HW tank compartment. With the frame in place, mark 4 locations for the screws, **2 above and 2 below**, then remove the frame to drill the pilot holes. I suggest drilling pilot holes to insure when the screws go in they do not accidentally move the tank since it is in a free float stage at the moment. (Heads up! The 2 holes I drilled in the bottom were into a steel rail, not wood).

It may be easier to install these screws with the HW tank exhaust deflector removed.

Make sure whatever drill or powered screwdriver you use can get to the area when the pilot holes are drilled.



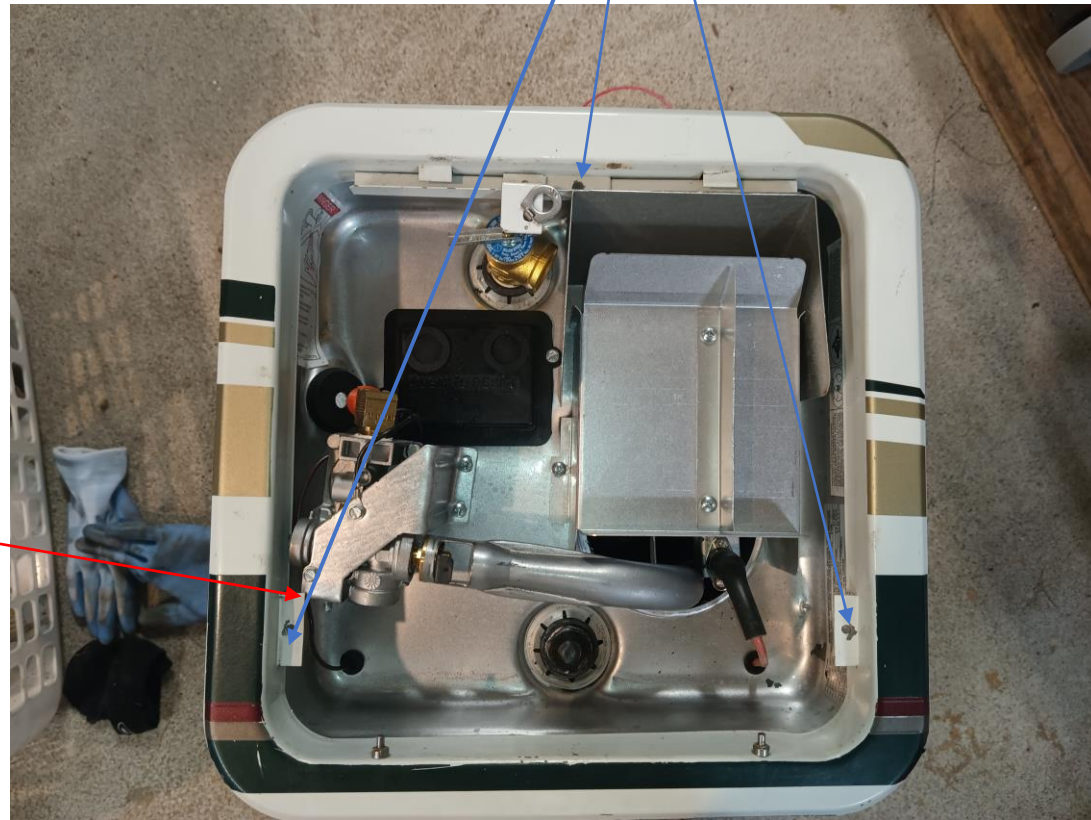
Add the Butyl tape to the perimeter of the frame and a bead of silicone along each side of the Butyl tape.





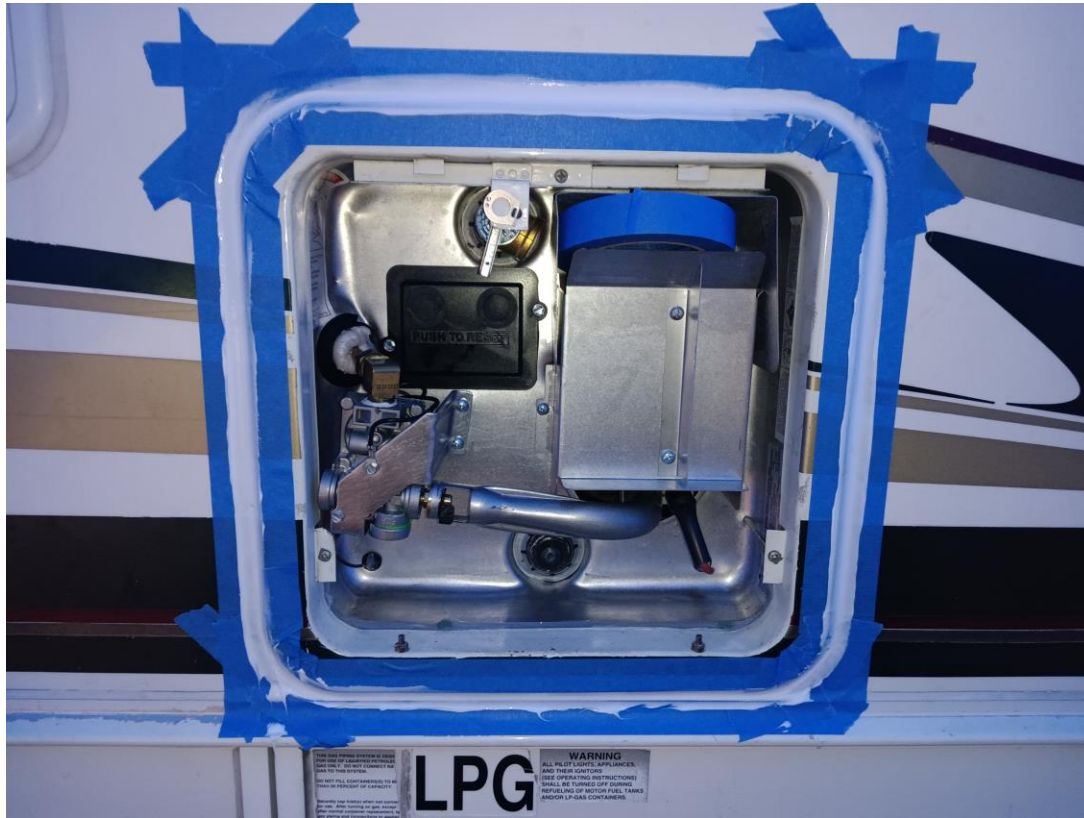
# Put the frame in place and add the 3 cover screws.

I had to **nip the corner** of this flange because it was hitting the propane valve cover and now allowing the frame to fit flush to the coach.



# Caulk around the edges of the cover with silicone.

Taping makes the lines come out much better. (I'm a terrible caulker!)  
Remove the tape immediately after caulking.



# Install the door and you're done!

