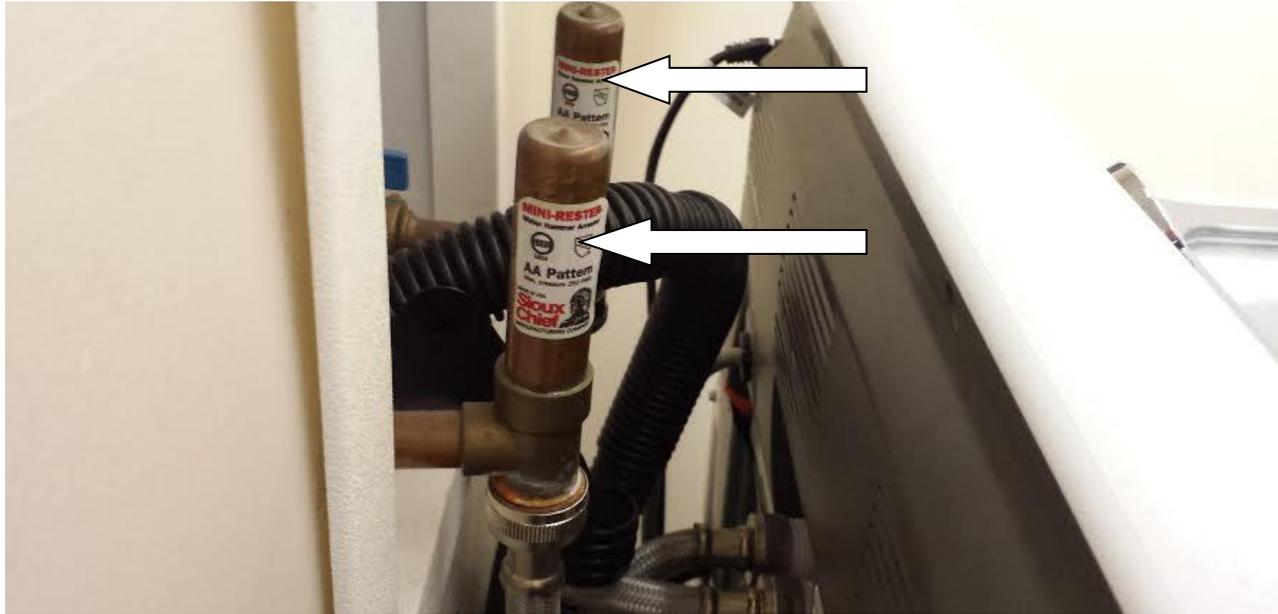


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## WATER HAMMER



### **What is a Water Hammer:**

A water hammer is a pressure surge caused when water in motion (washing machine filling up) is suddenly stopped (fill cycle closing the valve). This can be caused by shutting a faucet off quickly, but more likely occurs on washing machines, toilets and dishwashers. The sudden change in water motion results in a pressure or shock wave in the pipes.

### **Why Install a Water Hammer Arrestor:**

The pressure waves can cause varying problems; from annoyance noises and vibration (hammer sounds) to pipe collapse or seam breakage. Water hammer arrestors can be purchased at your local hardware store at a cost of less than \$15.00. The photo above shows a water hammer arrestor installed on each valve of a clothes washer. These connections can generally be installed by a homeowner as they are threaded on like a typical garden hose.

You may be able correct a water hammer issue in your home without purchasing and installing an arrestor. However; you may need to perform the actions on the next page repeatedly if the water hammer returns.

First, turn **off** the water supply at the main water shut off valve.

This is usually located in the basement of a home or near your water heater.



Main Water Valve – ON

Note the valve is in-line with the pipe.



Main Water Valve – OFF

Note the valve is perpendicular to the pipe.

Second, **open** all of the faucets in the home.

Start with the faucets in the basement, and then work your way upwards to the top floor.

This includes sinks, showers, tubs, and flushing the toilets.



Leave all of the faucets open until the water has drained out.

You might also want to open the exterior hose bibs.



When all of the faucets stop dripping, close them all, starting at the highest level of your home and work your way back down to the basement.

Then turn the water back on at the main water shut-off valve.

This may stop the water hammer.

