



Flushing After Construction

Whether there was construction on the watermain in front of your house or if you had a full or partial lead service line replaced it is extremely important to flush your faucets prior to use.

There is no lead in the water that is delivered to your house, however it can get into the water if your home's service line or internal plumbing contains lead. Following construction activities, lead particles and other debris can get trapped in your household plumbing. To help minimize lead exposure, you should flush your internal household plumbing.

Please flush all your faucets using these steps:

1. Find all the faucets that will drain, including the basement and all floors in your house.
2. Remove aerators and screens whenever possible, including the shower heads, from all faucets you plan to flush.
3. Include the laundry tubs, hose-bibs, bathtubs, and showers as flushing points.
4. After all the aerators are off, open the faucets (use COLD water) in the basement or lowest floor in the house. Leave all faucets running at highest rate possible, using COLD water.
5. After the faucets are all open in lowest floor, open the faucets on next highest floor of the house. Continue until faucets are open on all floors.
6. After all faucets are opened, leave the water running for at least 30 minutes. (Tip: You can save some of this water in buckets for household cleaning and watering flowers. DO NOT use this water for food, pets or in gardens that will be used to grow food.)
7. After 30 minutes, turn off the first faucet you opened and continue to turn off other faucets in the same order you turned them on.
8. Clean aerators/screens at each faucet. You may need to replace screens/aerators if too old or worn. (See Guidance for Cleaning Faucet Aerators) For the next 6 months, every couple weeks be sure to clean the aerators as this is a main area where lead particles get trapped.

Additional Daily Mini-Flushes

As a precaution, you should also do a mini-flush of the plumbing by running COLD tap water each morning or when the water sits in the pipe for more than 6 hours. Flush for 5 minutes to displace water that has been sitting in the pipes inside the house and in the service line. This could include: taking a shower, running the dishwasher, flushing a toilet, collection water for plants, or just running the faucet. You should do this before using any water for drinking, cooking, infant formula, etc. Daily mini-flushes should continue for 3 to 6-months or if you get your water tested, until lead samples results show the lead level is below the regulatory guideline.