



IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION FOR HOMEOWNERS FOLLOWING WATER SYSTEM WORK

Intensive flushing to clean your home's drinking water pipes



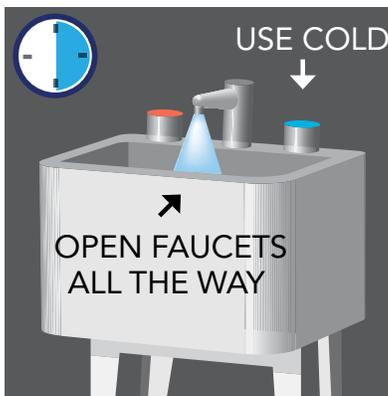
CAUTION

Work involving the water system like water main installation or repairs or water meter installations can dislodge small particles of contaminants- including lead- which can affect your drinking water. Ingesting lead can have significant health risks.

Studies show that flushing water through your pipes is an effective approach to lowering lead levels and exposure.

For more information about the health effects of lead, go to www.CDC.gov/nceh/lead.

Instructions for intensive flushing



Remove all aerators first. Run cold water from every faucet or tap in your whole house for at least 30 minutes. Start with taps in the basement or lowest floors and work your way up, opening all taps. Open the taps all the way and make sure drains are clear!

Studies show that running high flow water through a home's plumbing **every two weeks for three months** after pipes have been disturbed can lower lead levels in drinking water.

Full detailed instructions for intensive flushing are included on the back of this sheet.

How often?

Perform flushing every two weeks.

For how long?

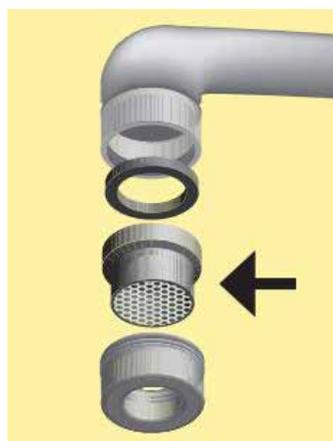
30 MINUTES

When to stop?

Do this for three months following work involving your water system.

DON'T FORGET!

Daily flushing: Whenever your water has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush your home's plumbing by turning on at least one cold water tap for five minutes. Daily activities like showering, doing laundry or dishes, or watering your lawn all count as daily flushing.



Aerator cleaning: You should routinely clean your aerators and replace those in poor condition. New aerators are available at local hardware stores.

Graphics courtesy of the Philadelphia Water Department

La versión en español de las instrucciones está disponible en:
www.chicagowaterquality.org/flushing/Spanish



Full instructions for intensive flushing

BEFORE YOU START

- Always use **COLD** water when you flush your pipes.
- Locate all water faucets in the house where you can run the water without the sink or tub overflowing. This includes laundry tubs and utility sinks.
- Take off aerators (also called screens) from all faucets and showerheads. If you cannot take these off, do not use the faucet for rinsing the pipes.
- Make sure all drains are open and clear so water can flow freely down the drains. After you take off aerators/screens, quickly flowing water will splash and spray.
- City crews flush from hose bibs post construction as accessible.

TURNING ON YOUR TAPS

1. After all aerators/screens are off, start opening faucets in the basement or on the lowest floor.

Open COLD water faucets all the way and let the water come out as fast as it can. Keep the water running from all faucets at the highest rate possible.

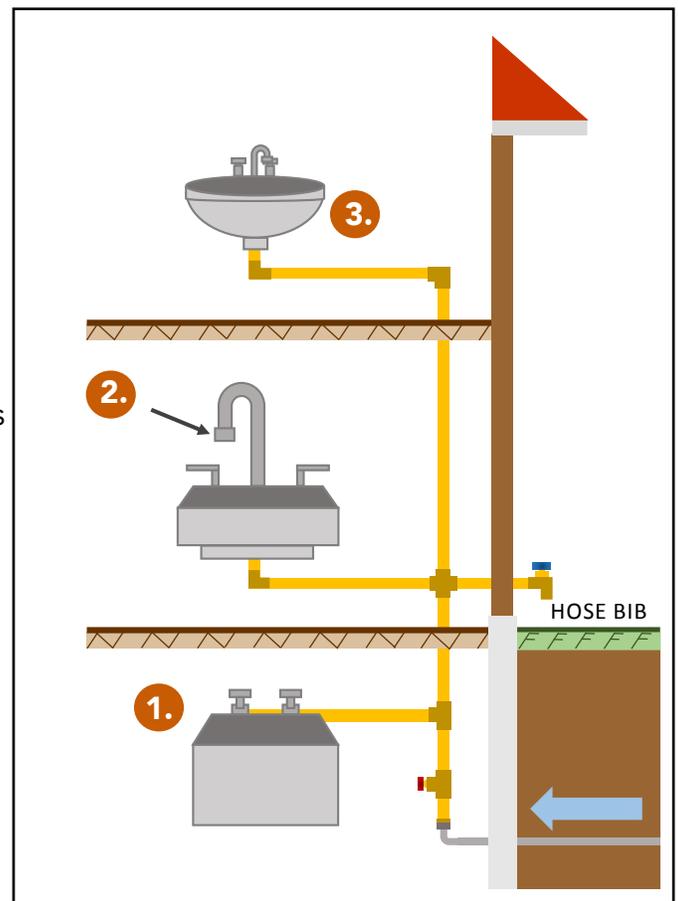
2. Go up to the next floor. Open all COLD water faucets on all floors of your house.

3. Continue until you fully open COLD water faucets on all floors of your house.

4. After ALL faucets are open fully, let the water run for 30 minutes. **NOTE:** The cost to flush four taps for 30 minutes is less than \$1, and Seniors using the senior citizen exemption will pay about 50 cents.

5. After 30 minutes, go to the top floor of your home and turn off all the faucets. Continue your way down to the lowest floor of your house and turn off all the faucets on your way down.

6. Clean the aerators/screens and put them back on at each faucet. If aerators/screens are old and worn, replace them with new ones.



DWM offers free water lead testing to all Chicago residents! If you are interested in having your water tested for free, please call 311 or visit www.ChicagoWaterQuality.org to request a lead test kit and instructions.

You may qualify for a free water filter set- a pitcher and six cartridges NSF-certified to remove lead from drinking water. Visit www.chicagowaterquality.org and enter your address and zip code to register for the free set and shipping.