



FLUSH INSTRUCTIONS

Flushing is the process of running water from a faucet to clear out sitting water from pipes. Flushing is a no-cost solution to reducing lead in water. When water sits in pipes or fixtures, it can pull lead and other metals into the sitting water. It's important to get that water out.

Here's a table with the recommended flushing times for your facility. Depending on your situation, you may need to flush specific taps or all the taps in your building. This guide will show you where and how to flush properly.

	1. Flush Select Taps	2. Flush All Taps in the Building
Before sampling an unused tap	X	
After replacing plumbing components	X	
After a filter is installed or replaced	X	
After a long weekend		X
After summer break		X
After a holiday closure		X
Before sampling a closed building		X

1. Flush Select Taps

a. Before sampling an unused tap

Follow these steps 2-3 days before you plan to sample individual taps that are unused for any reason.

Flushing taps and water fountains can occur simultaneously or one at a time.

Flush water fountains

- Run any unused water fountains in your building for 1 minute each.
- If your fountain has a refrigeration unit, run the water for 15 minutes. These units have cooling systems, so the water dispenses colder than room temperature and may take longer to fully flush. A longer flush time helps clear out all the sitting water from the refrigeration tanks.

Flush taps

- Run any unused taps for 1 minute one at a time.

b. After replacing plumbing components

Follow these steps immediately after you replace fixtures or plumbing components in your building.

Step 1. Flush hot and cold water lines

Immediately after installing, flush the hot and cold water lines for 10 minutes each.

Step 2. Repeat Flushing for 3 weeks

Then run the water for at least 30 seconds 4 times per day during the three-week break-in period for new components.

Always flush 2-3 days before you plan to sample!!

Why flush after replacing components?

- **Particles can come loose** when replacing or removing components.
- **New materials** with small, allowable amounts of lead can release more lead when first used.
- **New plumbing typically requires a three-week break in period** with repeated flushing to ensure any particles of lead or other contaminants are cleared from the system.



c. After a filter is installed or replaced

Immediately run water according to the manufacturer's instructions. Some manufacturers recommend flushing for 5–10 minutes immediately after installation to ensure safe use. Please refer to the manufacturer's instructions for specifics.

2. Flush All Taps in the Building

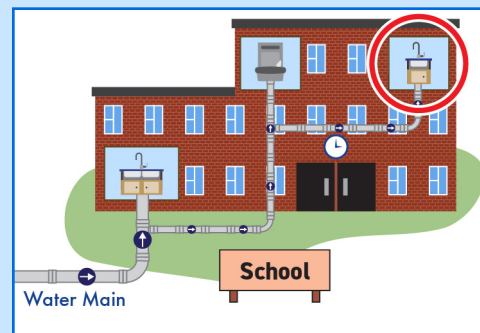
Use these instructions if water in the building has been sitting unused for more than 3 days. This includes closures for summer or holidays. Follow these steps 2-3 days before you plan to sample.

If your building has more than one floor, start with the top floor of the building. Only flush one floor at a time.

- If you notice water pressure decreasing, flush fewer taps at a time.

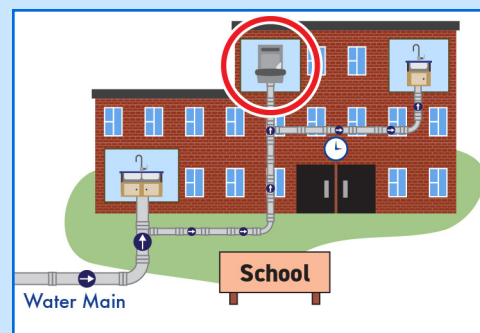
Step 1. Flush tap farthest from where the main water supply enters the building.

- Turn on the cold water and let it run for 10 minutes.
- While that tap is running, if your building has multiple wings:
 - Locate the tap in each wing that is farthest from where the main water supply enters the building.
 - Turn on the cold water and let those taps also run for 10 minutes at the same time.
- After 10 minutes for each tap, turn taps off in the order they were turned on



Step 2. Flush water fountains on the same floor.

- On the same floor, run all water fountains for 1 minute, one at a time.
- If your fountain has a refrigeration unit, run the water for 15 minutes. These units have cooling systems, so the water dispenses colder than room temperature and may take longer to fully flush. A longer flush time helps clear out all the sitting water from the refrigeration tanks.



Step 3. Flush additional taps on the same floor.

- After flushing the farthest tap and water fountains, on the same floor, run any additional taps for 1 minute, one at a time.

Step 4. Repeat Steps 1-3 for remaining floors in the building.

- Work from the top floor to the bottom.
- If sampling, proceed to sample collection 2-3 days after following these instructions.

More Resources: Visit www.cleanwaterforuskids.org



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