

FULL INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIGH-VELOCITY FLUSHING

POST SERVICE
LINE REPLACEMENT



FLUSHING STEPS

1 

Remove aerators from all faucets that will be flushed. If the aerator cannot be removed, skip that faucet when flushing.

When the aerators are removed, there is an increased chance of water spray or spills.

2 

Starting at the lowest level of the home, turn on all **cold water** taps to the fully open position. This includes bathtubs, laundry sinks, and kitchen sinks. Bathroom sinks are optional if the bathtub is flushed.

3  30 minutes

Once all taps are open, set a timer for **30 minutes**.

4 

Monitor the drainage during the flush to make sure the sink does not overflow.

5  times up

After **30 minutes**, turn off in the same order they were turned on (i.e., lowest floor first). Replace aerators.



DO NOT FLUSH:

- Outdoor faucets, taps, etc.
- Any location with a dedicated filter (i.e., a filter that cannot be bypassed).
- Location where aerator cannot be removed (e.g., if rusted).

BEFORE YOU START

1. **Always use COLD water when you rinse the pipes.**
2. **Locate all water faucets in the house where you can run the water without the sink or tub overflowing.**
 - Be sure to include any laundry tubs and utility sinks.
 - Use showers that are not attached to bathtubs. Take off the shower heads, if possible.
 - If a shower is attached to a bathtub, just use the bathtub faucet.
3. **Take off aerators (also called screens) from all faucets and shower heads.**
 - If you cannot take these off, do not use the faucet for rinsing the pipes.
4. **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.

ALL FILTERS IN THE HOME MUST BE REMOVED OR BY-PASSED

When possible, it is best to flush at times of the day when neighbors don't use a lot of water - so best to flush from mid-morning to dinner time or late at night

1. Find all the faucets that have good drains, including those in the basement and on all floors in your house.
2. Remove all in-home filters or by-pass them. You cannot flush through a filter.
3. Remove aerators and screens from all faucets or shower heads
4. Be sure to include the laundry tub, the bathtub, or shower, shower head removed as flushing points
5. After all the aerators are removed open the faucets in the basement or lowest floor in the house, leave all faucets running at the highest rate possible - using COLD water only.
6. After faucets are all open on the lowest floor open faucets on the next highest floor of the house. Continue until faucets are open on all floors, including tubs and showers shower head removed.
7. After all faucets are opened, leave them ALL running for at least 30 minutes
8. After 30 minutes, turn off the 1 faucet you opened (lowest floor), and continue to turn off other faucets in the same order you turned them on.
9. Re-install aerators screens at each faucet - you may need to discard old screens/aerators and replace with new ones if too old or worn.



CAUTION - MESS FROM WATER SPRAY

- Make sure the drains open and clear so water can flow freely to drain
- Make sure water can drain as fast as water is flowing from tap during flushing
- When faucet is open at high rate, especially since aerators screens are removed, it can create a mess due to water spray. Take precautions to either contain or monitor the spray

TURNING ON YOUR TAPS

5. **After all aerators/screens are off, start opening faucets in the basement or on the lowest floor.**
 - Open COLD water faucets all the way to let the water come out as fast as it can.
 - Keep the water running from all faucets at the highest rate possible.
6. **Go up to the next floor.**
 - Open all COLD water faucets there and let the water come out as fast as it can.
7. **Continue until you fully open COLD water faucets on all floors of your house.**
8. **After ALL faucets are open fully, let the water run for 30 minutes.**

TIP: You can save some of this water in buckets for washing your car or watering flowers.
Never use this water for food, pets or in gardens that will be used to grow food.
9. **After 30 minutes, go the basement or the lowest floor.**
 - Turn off all the faucets.
 - Go to each floor and close the faucets in the order that you opened them.
10. **Clean the aerators/screens and put them back on at each faucet.**
 - If aerators/screens are old and worn, replace them with new ones.

WHAT SHOULD I DO ON DAYS AFTER THE FLUSH?

FOLLOW UP

- Run tap water each morning for at least 5 min to displace water that has been sitting in pipes inside the house and in the service line, This could include taking a shower, running dishwasher or running the faucet. Do this BEFORE using any water for drinking cooking, infant formula, etc.
- Clean debris from aerators and screens, once a month for 6 months
- After 6 months, clean debris from aerators/screens twice a year (for example, in April/October when daylight savings time changes).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHOLE-HOUSE, HIGH VELOCITY FLUSHING TO REMOVE LEAD PARTICLES

WHERE DOES LEAD COME FROM?

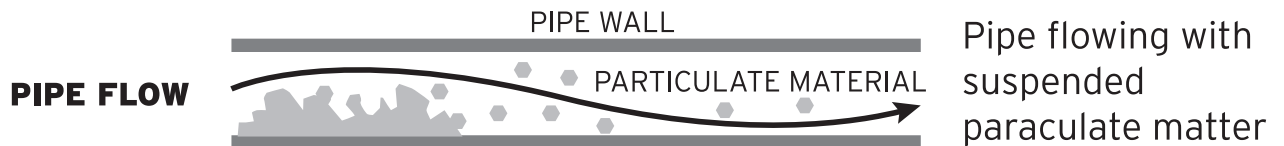
Lead in water can be dissolved or in particles

The lead in your tap water comes from the lead pipes that may be present from the street to your house or from faucets or indoor plumbing with lead.

When the street is disturbed by construction lead particles can come loose from the pipes. Some particles may still be present from the corrosion events and these need to be removed from your home plumbing.

WHY SHOULD YOU CONDUCT A FLUSH?

Lead particles can be released at random if they are in your pipes, but more particles can be released during construction that disturbs the lead lines



WHEN SHOULD "HIGH VELOCITY FLUSHING" BE DONE?

- When the Water Utility informs you about a disturbance, or you have had high lead results
- This type of flushing can dislodge (break loose) lead-containing particles in pipes inside the house as well as in the service line between the house and the street.

WHICH FAUCETS IN YOUR HOUSE TO FLUSH?

All faucets inside your house that can flow to a drain without overflowing in your house should be flushed

HOW OFTEN?

After you perform a flush, the City or State staff will work with you to take lead samples. You will be advised if more flushing is needed.

CAUTION • SHORT TERM CONSEQUENCES

Research has shown flushing can produce long-term benefits typically after 2 months but prior to this the lead may actually be higher - see precautions described in "follow up."