



# Cleveland Water

## WATER SERVICE RESTORATION FLUSHING INSTRUCTIONS

### WHEN TO FLUSH

**Once water service has been restored, it is important that you perform a full house flush of both the **COLD** then the **HOT** water plumbing before you begin using and drinking the water in your home. Please follow these instructions.**

### WHY FLUSH

Flush, Clean and Consume Cold are the actions all customers should implement to help ensure the highest quality of water is coming out of your tap, especially if there is the possibility of lead in your plumbing system. In some situations, a water system repair/replacement may temporarily increase lead levels in water and/or cause discoloration. As a standard practice the USEPA recommends these actions (flush, clean, consume cold), which are important to take when water has been restored after a disruption of service.



### FLUSH

Flush your cold water lines before consuming water when water has not been used for 6 or more hours. The goal is to have cold, fresh water from the main in the street come out of your tap before drinking the water. To flush the plumbing, run water until you feel a temperature change then run water for an additional 30 seconds to 3 minutes. The time depends on the length of your service line.



### CLEAN

Clean your faucet aerator screens regularly. Small particles of solder and other material can accumulate in faucet aerators and in some circumstances can release lead into the water. Aerators should be cleaned at least twice a year, and more frequently after work is done on your plumbing system.



### CONSUME COLD

Always use cold water for cooking, drinking and preparing baby formula. Hot water corrodes pipes faster and is more likely to contain lead. If you need hot water for food or drinks, get water from the cold water tap then heat the water.

### HOW TO FLUSH

1. If possible, remove all aerator screens from every faucet and fixture in your home and leave each aerator screen in a container or bowl by the faucet from which it came.
  - If a tub includes a showerhead, use the tub faucet and not the showerhead, to flush the plumbing.
2. Determine the faucet that is closest to where the service line enters your home. If this is an outdoor spigot, turn the **COLD WATER** on first as high as it goes. Otherwise, start in the basement or lowest floor of your home. Turn the **COLD WATER** on as high as it goes.
3. Continue opening all **COLD WATER** faucets, including tubs, utility sinks and outdoor spigots, until all **COLD WATER** faucets are open on all floors. Every **COLD WATER** faucet in your home should be turned on at the same time.
4. After all faucets are open, let the **COLD WATER** run for at least 30 minutes. During this time, also flush each toilet in your home 2 or 3 times. Running the **COLD WATER** should remove any old (stagnant) water which may contain higher concentrations of metals including lead, if it exists in your service line or plumbing.
5. After 30 minutes, turn off the first faucet you opened. Then turn off all other faucets in the same order you turned them on until all **COLD WATER** faucets are closed.
6. Now it is time to flush the **HOT WATER** plumbing. Starting at the faucet that is closest to where the water enters your home, turn on the **HOT WATER** at each faucet, including tubs and showers, and let the **HOT WATER** run for at least 10 minutes for a typical 40-gallon hot water tank (15 minutes for a 55-gallon hot water tank). This should move the rest of the old water out of your home's plumbing system.
7. After both **COLD WATER** and **HOT WATER** flushing has been completed, clean and reattach aerators to each faucet. If an aerator cannot be cleaned, do not reattach it. Use your faucet without the aerator until you can buy a replacement at your local hardware store or online.
8. Once the **HOT WATER** flushing is complete, go back to each faucet individually and turn the **COLD WATER** on as high as it goes for 1 minute.

**QUESTIONS: Call the Cleveland Water Quality Line at 216-664-2639**