

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS, AFTER SERVICE LINE WORK

# **Intensive flushing**

to clean your home's drinking water pipes

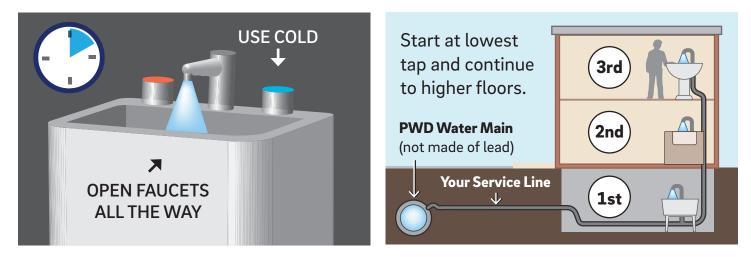


Following lead or steel service line replacement, small pieces of lead or other debris may have entered the pipes in your house. This may lead to high levels of lead in your property's water for up to three months. **Lead is harmful to everyone. Pregnant women, infants, children under the age of six, and adults with high blood pressure and kidney problems are at the most risk.** 

## Instructions for intensive flushing after service line work:

Remove all aerators from faucets (if they can be easily removed). Run cold water from every faucet or tap in your whole house for at least 10 minutes. Start with taps in the basement or lowest floors and work your way up, opening taps one by one. Make sure drains are clear!

Studies show that running quickly flowing water through a home's plumbing after pipes have been disturbed by construction can lower lead levels in drinking water.



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

### **HEALTHY HOME HABITS:**

**Daily Cleaning:** If no one has used water for six hours or more, run your **COLD** tap for at least 3 minutes. It gets rid of water that has been sitting in your pipes. Do this **BEFORE** using cold water for drinking, cooking, making baby formula, feeding your pets, making ice, or watering edible plants.



**Aerators:** You should clean debris from aerators (also called screens) once a month after service line replacement. If aerators are old and worn, replace them with new ones. Aerators should be replaced twice a year.



# Full instructions for intensive flushing

Immediately after water service was restored to your home, the service provider should have flushed cold water from an outdoor hose bib or basement utility sink for 30 minutes.

## **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 showerheads, 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 showerheads.
  - 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.

## **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 for 10 minutes, one at a time.
- 6. Go up to the next floor.
  - Open all COLD water faucets there and let the water come out as fast as it can for 10 minutes, one at a time.
- 7. Continue until you've fully flushed COLD water faucets on all floors of your house.

**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 to water edible plants.

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

### NOTE:

Don't use hot water until all the cold water faucets have been flushed.