



Flushing Recommendations for Closed Buildings

Plumbing systems are designed for continuous use. Water that has been sitting for a long period of time could become stagnant or drop in water quality. The following is a step-by-step flushing method to maintain high quality water while a building remains closed or under-used.

Flush all external spigots for at least 10 minutes – longer if the structure is older. Cold water plumbing should be thoroughly flushed before the hot water plumbing is flushed or used in any way. Avoid running water through dish washers, clothes washers, refrigerators, and ice machines until the cold-water plumbing has been thoroughly flushed.

1. Begin by running the cold-water faucet closest to where water comes into your home or business. Then open all the other cold-water fixtures in order from closest to farthest, and allow the water to run for at least 20 minutes. Remove and clean all aerators where possible.
2. In bathrooms, begin by flushing toilets at least once. If a bathtub has both a bath tap and showerhead, direct flow through the bath tap.
3. Once the cold-water pipes have been flushed, run the hot water tap closest to the hot water heater and proceed to open all of the hot water fixtures in order from closest to farthest until the water heater is completely drained.
4. After flushing hot water pipes and the water heater, run the empty dishwasher and/or washing machine once on rinse cycle only.
5. Replace all water filters (e.g., whole-house filter, refrigerator filter etc.) and empty ice from ice-maker bin; run ice maker and discard an additional batch of ice.

It is recommended to flush each building once a week to avoid water stagnation and poor water quality.

If you have any questions, please contact the Water Distribution Supervisor at (530) 822-4777.