



Building and business closures for weeks or months reduce water usage, potentially leading to stagnant water inside building plumbing. This water can become unsafe to drink or otherwise use for personal or commercial purposes. EPA recommends that building owners, building managers, and businesses take steps to flush the building's plumbing before reopening.

Flush cold water first

- Remove aerators and screens from all faucets.
- Then, turn on the cold water and open all cold water outlet valves, such as faucets (bathroom, kitchen and laundry) and bath tubs and showers. Outlets should be turned on to full open.

• Start with the outlets on the lowest floor, then move

to the second floor, and then higher floors in order.

- All cold water outlets should be flowing at the same time during flushing.
- Flush toilets and urinals two or three times each, to purge any stagnant water and bring in fresh water.
- The outlets should run for at least 30 minutes. After this time has elapsed, turn off faucets and outlets in the same order as you opened them.
- Larger facilities will have more water stored in the pipes and tanks so it will take longer to flush the system.

Flush hot water second

Turn on the hot water and open all hot water outlets, in the same way as you opened the cold water outlets.

The hot water should run for 45 minutes for a residence or small business, to ensure that all water in the heater is flushed out.