

Flush your household plumbing after construction or plumbing work

Construction and plumbing activities can release particles and lead from lead service lines and plumbing fixtures. Flushing the plumbing brings fresh, cold water from the main in the street into the pipes in your property.

If you have a lead service line, flush your household plumbing at the end of each work day during active construction. Not running the water for the recommended length of time may increase your risk of lead exposure.

You may want to flush your plumbing even if you have a copper water service line.

Flushing your pipes for 10 minutes will cost 16 cents on the water portion of your Municipal Services Bill.

Active construction includes:

- Plumbing work
- Replacement of the lead service line with copper
- Water main replacement
- Department of Public Works street and sewer reconstruction

When the entire project is complete, flush your household plumbing again.

Here's how:

1. Remove aerators, or the screens, from the end of every faucet and rinse any particles from them.

2. Start in the basement or lowest level and work your way to the top floor. Fully open each cold water tap and allow the water to run.

3. Your water should be clear after 10 minutes. Start at the top floor and turn off the water at each faucet, finishing in the basement.

4. Re-attach aerators to the faucets.

If the water is discolored, continue flushing until clear. If it is still discolored after 30 minutes, please call our 24-hour Control Center at (414) 286-3710.

