



Home Plumbing Flushing Procedures

To protect your health and safety, it is recommended that you read carefully and follow these steps for flushing pipes in your home following the disruption of your water service.

Even with flushing, please be advised that you should wait to receive results from testing of water collected in your home confirming that it is clean before resuming water use.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

When flushing, continue to monitor drains so that the sinks or bathtubs do not overflow.

Remove any aerators, hoses or other items attached to spigots or faucets. These items should also be cleaned with a weak bleach solution (1-5%) and rinsed with clean water following a house plumbing flush.

Be sure to empty all water bowls, bottles or other water supplies for your pet. Use soap and clean water to wash the pet bowl, bottle or other water supply after flushing is completed.

Prior to flushing, place ALL filters in by-pass mode.

If there is a house water softener, follow equipment manufacture recommendations on flushing the unit.

Medical or health care devices connected to or utilizing water from the drinking water lines should be flushed per the equipment manufacture instructions.

Discoloration may occur during flushing. This is not unexpected and should not be a concern unless you see debris or sediment, which indicates additional flushing may be needed.

You may also notice a chlorine smell as a result of increased disinfection by the water system. This is not a concern, but rather a sign the flushing is working.

As you are flushing, if you suspect a blockage or notice a significant drop in pressure, please stop the flushing process and contact a plumber.

HOME PLUMBING FLUSHING PROCEDURES:

Begin the flushing procedure by opening the hot and cold water taps for two to five minutes in your bathtub, shower, bathroom sinks, kitchen sinks and any other water faucet. This includes refrigerator water dispensers.

Ice from an automatic ice machine should be discarded. Allow the ice machine to refill the bin and discard the second batch of ice. Ice bins can be cleaned with soap and clean water, dried and returned to the freezer.

Flush each toilet at least once. Remove any hoses from the outside spigots and flush the water for two to five minutes.



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Turn off the cold water supply to your water heater tank and turn off or turn down the water heater thermostat, then:

- Connect a garden hose to the tank's drain valve and open all the hot water faucets.
- Open the water heater's drain valve and let the tank drain.
- After the tank is drained, turn the cold water supply back on. Let it run for a few minutes and check the end of the hose to see when it runs clear, then turn it off.
- Disconnect the hose from the drain valve and if applicable, use a wet/dry vacuum to remove any sediment from the opening.
- Leave the hot water faucets open until water begins flowing out of them.
- Reset the water heater thermostat to your preferred setting.

For a tankless hot water heater, disconnect the electrical power to the tankless water heater, then:

- Remove the access panel and test the wires leading into the terminal with a non-contact voltage tester to verify that all power has been disconnected.
- Close the hot and cold shut-off valves.
- Relieve the pressure by opening the hot water pressure relief valve on the hot water line. Use caution, as any water released may be very hot.
- Connect one end of Hose #1 to the cold water service port and connect the other end of Hose #1 to a submersible pump.
- Place the submersible pump into a 5-gallon bucket.
- Connect one end of Hose #2 to the hot water service port. Place the unattached end of Hose #2 into the bucket.
- Fill the 5-gallon bucket containing the submersible pump with 4-gallons of virgin, food grade, white vinegar. Do NOT dilute the vinegar.
- Open the hot and cold service ports.
- Turn on the submersible pump and allow the vinegar to circulate thru the tankless water heater for at least 60 minutes.
- Turn the submersible pump off and dispose of the vinegar.

Dishwashers should be run for one cycle on the longest setting.

- If the dishwasher has a filter, it should be removed and cleaned using clean hot soapy water and returned.

After hot and cold water lines have been flushed, washing machines should be run for one cycle.

- If washing machine has a filter, it should be removed and replaced or cleaned using clean hot soapy water and returned.
- If your filter is connected to the water line, turn off water line prior to removing the filter.

Small home appliances, such as coffee makers, should be run for one cycle.

- If the appliance has a filter, it should be removed and replaced or cleaned using clean hot soapy water and returned.