

FLUSHING YOUR HOUSE PLUMBING SYSTEM WHEN WATER SERVICES ARE RESTORED

Guidance

When water services are reconnected after having been shut off for a period of time, it is necessary to flush the plumbing components in your home by running water. These instructions will help by providing some step-by-step instructions on how to systematically run water to completely flush your home.

To protect the health and safety of our communities, we recommend that you read carefully and follow the steps for flushing.

At the end of this document, you will find instructions on how to clean your faucet aerator. These instructions should be followed after conducting a house plumbing flush.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Complete these steps in the order below. Finish each step completely before moving to the next step.

1. Find all faucets in the home that have good drains.

- Don't forget faucets in the basement or other floors of your house.
- Remove all in-home filters or bypass them. You should not flush through a filter.

**Discoloration
may occur
during flushing.
This is expected.**

2. Remove all aerators and screens from faucets or shower heads.

Be sure to include the laundry tub, the bathtub, or shower (shower head removed) as flushing points.

3. Use cold water taps and open faucets. Leave all faucets running during this process.

- Start with faucets in the basement or lowest floor in the house.
- Then open faucets on the next highest floor of the house.
- Continue until all faucets are open on all floors, including tubs and showers (shower head removed).

4. Leave ALL faucets running for at least 30 minutes.

5. Turn off the 1st faucet you opened (basement or lowest floor).

6. Turn off all other faucets in the same order you turned them on.

7. Clean and re-install aerators/screens at each faucet.

You may need to discard old screens/aerators and replace with new ones if too old or worn.

DO NOT use hot water for drinking, cooking or preparing baby formula.

ADDITIONAL STEPS TO REDUCE POTENTIAL LEAD EXPOSURE

If you have concerns about lead exposure, public health recommends that any household with a child or pregnant woman use a certified lead filter to reduce lead from their drinking water. Look for filters that are tested and certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction. If your household has a child or pregnant woman and are not able to afford the cost of a lead filter, please contact your local municipal water system.

Learn about your drinking water supply. Read your community's Consumer Confidence Report that is mailed to you each year or can be found at your local water utility's website. If you wish to get your drinking water tested, use a certified lab. To find a certified lab, go to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's web page at www.Michigan.gov/EGLE and search "Certified Lab List." For additional information on minimizing lead exposure, visit www.Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe.

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES GUIDANCE ON CLEANING YOUR AERATORS/SCREENS.

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Cleaning Your Aerators

What are aerators and when should they be cleaned?

There are screens on faucets called aerators. Aerators help keep pieces of lead and other particles from getting into your water. Clean your drinking water faucet aerator at least every six months. If there is construction or repairs to the public water system or pipes near your home, clean your drinking water faucet aerator every month until the work is done.

Follow the steps below to clean your aerators:



1

- The small round piece on the bottom of your faucet is the aerator (pronounced: air-raytor).
- Unscrew the aerator from the bottom of the faucet.
- You should be able to unscrew it with your fingers, but you might need a wrench if it's stuck.



2

- Your aerator might not look the same as this, but it's okay.
- Now that the aerator is off, let's clean it.



3

- While you only need to use water to rinse off your aerator, these things might make it easier to clean it:
 - An old toothbrush
 - A glass of vinegar



4

- Soaking the aerator in vinegar will loosen some of the grime. You can soak it as long as you want, but even five minutes will help.
- The toothbrush makes it easy to scrub the inside. Don't use that toothbrush for brushing your teeth again.



5

A

- If your aerator looks like Photo A, it has a flow control piece. You'll have to take it apart:
 - Pull out the pieces carefully.
 - Note the order that the pieces come out. You'll have to put them back in the same way. It may help to take a picture or write down some notes.
- If your aerator looks like Photo B, go to Step 6.



B



6

- You might not have all of these pieces. They might not be this color. Every aerator is a little different.
- Scrub all of the pieces. Make sure you get down inside the metal piece, removing any bits of grime or metal flakes you see.



7

- Rinse everything very well.
- Run water through the aerator screen - holding it right side up and upside down.



8

- Once it's clean,
 - If your aerator looks like Photo A in step 5, put it back together.
 - If it looks like Photo B, you're all set.



9

- Put the aerator back on your faucet.
- Repeat these steps at least every six months. Cleaning removes pieces of lead or other particles from your aerator and stops them from getting into your water.

For more information call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) at 800-648-6942 or visit [Michigan.gov/mileadsafe](https://www.michigan.gov/mileadsafe).