

SAFELY RETURN WATER SERVICE TO YOUR BUSINESS

FLUSH ALL WATER LINES UPON BUILDING RE-ENTRY



As businesses, restaurants, churches, schools, and other entities return to buildings following the Shelter-in-Place Order during the COVID-19 pandemic, a few measures should be taken to ensure water quality.

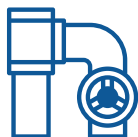
Water can accumulate in lines and become stagnant in vacant buildings. This stagnant water can lose chlorine residual and result in poor quality, cause water-borne illnesses and leaching of lead and copper.

The following steps are key protocol to flush your water line prior to restoring full operation if you have closed or reduced water usage. Flushing instructions may vary by structure.



1

Remove or bypass devices like point-of-entry treatment units prior to flushing. Set aside.



2

Take steps to prevent backflow or the siphoning of contaminants into plumbing (e.g., close valves separating irrigation systems from home plumbing, disconnect hoses attached to faucets, etc.)



3

Organize flushing to maximize the flow of water (e.g. opening all outlets simultaneously to flush the service line and then flushing outlets individually starting near where the water enters the structure).



4

Run enough water through all outlets (e.g., hose bibs, faucets, showerheads, toilets, etc.), removing aerators when possible. Typical durations in existing protocols range from 10 to 30 minutes for each outlet (duration varies based on outlet velocity).



5

Flush the cold water lines first, and then the hot water lines. Note: the hot water tank can be drained directly; it can require roughly 45 minutes to fully flush a typical 40-gallon hot water tank.



6

Replace all point-of-use filters, including the filter in refrigerators. Clean and re-install or replace aerator screens.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE & RESOURCES

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>
- <https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Coronavirus#lt-10681543-shutoffs-and-return-to-service-guidance>
- https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/covid-19.html
- <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/downloads/hot-tub-disinfection.pdf>

Please share this information with maintenance staff, property managers and tenants.

For additional guidance please call our Water Quality Hotline at
510.668.6500 or visit www.acwd.org/COVID19