

Flushing your faucets: Important steps to protect your health

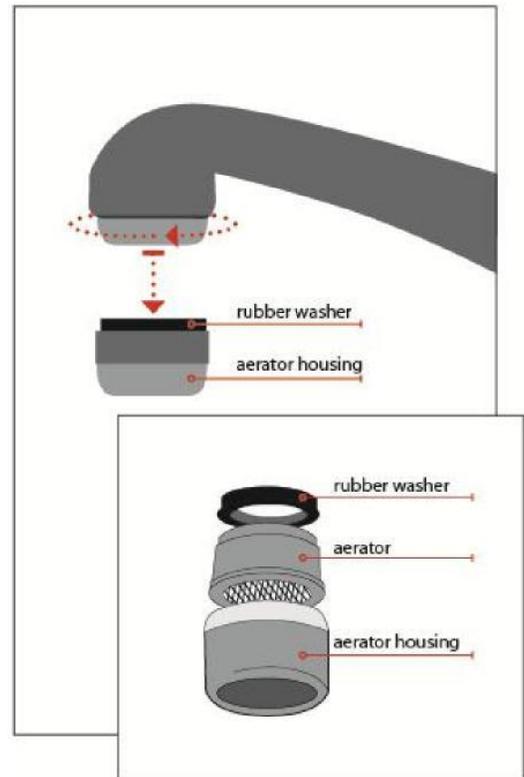
There is no lead in the water delivered through Denver Water's system. However it can get into the water if your home's service lines or internal plumbing contain lead.

Here are some steps you can take to improve the water quality in your home:

Every day: If water has not been used for a few hours, run the cold water tap for a couple of minutes first. This will move water from the water main to your faucet and will lower the amount of lead coming from your plumbing.

Every 6 months, clean your faucet aerators and flush all of your faucets using these steps:

1. Remove faucet aerators, or screens, from all cold water taps. To clear the screen of debris:
 - a. Unscrew the screen.
 - b. Separate the individual parts.
 - c. Remove any sediment build-up on the screen and other parts. If needed, soak in white vinegar for a few minutes and scrub with a brush.
 - d. Reassemble and reattach parts to the faucet.
2. Run the cold water taps including faucets, bathtubs and showers starting at the lowest level of your home and working your way up for several minutes each. (You may want to collect this water for plants, cleaning or other household uses.)
3. Turn off each tap starting with the taps on the top floor.
4. Reassemble and attach aerators to the faucet.



A few other tips:

- Use cold water for drinking and cooking.
- Use a filter on your faucets if someone in your home is pregnant or younger than six.
- Also, consider replacing faucets and indoor plumbing with "lead-free" components.
- And if your service line is made of lead, hire a plumber to replace it with copper. (Service lines installed before 1951 are more likely to contain lead.)

For more information, visit denverwater.org/Lead