

# FLUSHING INSTRUCTIONS

## AFTER WATER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

**After your water service line replacement, it is important to flush your pipes.**

Lead particles and other debris can get trapped in your household plumbing after your water service line replacement. To minimize lead exposure, Denver Water's crews flush new service lines using an outside spigot. To protect your family, you should also flush indoor plumbing to reduce the amount of lead-containing particles and other debris that may have entered your pipes during the work.

**Please flush your indoor pipes using these steps:**

1. Remove aerators, or screens, from all faucets.

To clear the screen of debris:

- ◆ Unscrew the screen.
- ◆ Separate the individual parts inside the screen.
- ◆ Soak the parts in white vinegar for five minutes and gently scrub with a brush.
- ◆ Reassemble the screen.



2. Beginning with the lowest level of your home, fully open all faucets using cold water only, including at sinks, bathtubs or showers, until all faucets are running in your home. Make sure that all water is draining properly from faucet locations.
3. Let the water run for at least 30 minutes at the last faucet opened, which should be on the top floor. (You may want to collect this water for plants, cleaning or other household uses.)
4. After 30 minutes, turn off each faucet starting at the top floor. Reattach aerators.

**Over the next 30 days, when water has not been used for a few hours, such as first thing in the morning or when getting home from work, flush cold water from the kitchen or any bathroom faucet for five minutes.**

Lead levels can be temporarily elevated due to remaining lead particles in the service line. Approximately four months after your replacement, you will be offered a free water quality testing kit to verify that lead levels have been reduced.

**For the next six months, continue to use your Denver Water-provided water pitcher and filter.**



Filter water for drinking (including making tea and coffee), cooking (particularly when making foods like rice, beans and soup) and preparing infant formula.

**For more information and to view a video on flushing, go to [denverwater.org/Lead](https://denverwater.org/Lead).**