

# ENSURING WATER QUALITY

## How to flush your household plumbing after construction



**O**ur mission at Des Moines Water Works is *LEADING AND ADVOCATING FOR WATER YOU CAN TRUST FOR LIFE.*

This is more than a mission to us at Des Moines Water Works. We want to ensure every time you turn on your faucet you can confidently drink the water we produce and send to your home.

There are times when we must conduct maintenance or replace the pipe that brings water through our distribution system or to the line that connects our system to your home (the service line). When that occurs, the water that comes out of your faucet can be temporarily affected, both in quality and appearance.

To ensure the highest quality of water, your pipes and plumbing should be flushed after lead service line replacement, water main replacement or if there has been a water main break in your neighborhood. You would have been notified about any of these issues.

Flushing is needed because dirt and debris can get into your pipes while crews are working on a replacement or repair.

Learn more through this video  
or read the instructions  
on the next page:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ufKMmUxe3w&t=1s>

Des Moines  
**Water Works**

Water You Can Trust for Life

**Flushing is needed because dirt and debris can get into your pipes while crews are working on a replacement or making a repair.**

### **Flush Your Pipes and Plumbing After:**

- Lead service line replacement
- Water main replacement
- Water main break in your neighborhood

\* You would have been notified about any of these from Des Moines Water Works

### **Take these steps for the line flushing process:**

#### **1. Clean your aerators —**

- Unscrew any aerators or screens connected to your faucets. These may be on both your kitchen and bathroom sink fixtures. You may need an aerator key or tool to remove recessed or hidden screens. If the aerator is stuck, wrap a cloth around the end and use a vice grip, wrench or pliers to carefully loosen it.
- Take the aerator apart, and soak all of the parts in white vinegar for five minutes.
- Scrub the parts with a brush. This will help remove any debris caught in the screens.

#### **2. Flush the pipes —**

- Keep the aerators off.
- If it's warm enough, turn on each outdoor spigot and let it run for two to three minutes. You may consider collecting the water and using it to water plants. Then, turn the water off.
- Go inside and turn on all cold water faucets, starting with those on the lowest level of the house and work your way upstairs. Turn on every sink, bathtub or other faucet you may have. Leave these running for 30 minutes after the last faucet was turned on.
- After 30 minutes, start on the top floor and begin shutting off the faucets. Work your way downstairs. Once all of the water is off, re-assemble your aerators and screw them back into the faucets.

***If you had a lead service line replaced:***

***For the next 30 days, first thing in the morning or if your water hasn't been used for several hours, run cold water through the kitchen or bathroom sink for five minutes before cooking, drinking or preparing infant formula.***

***This will clear any debris that was sitting in your plumbing and will bring in fresh water from the water main in the street.***