SAFELY RESUME WATER USE AFTER EXTENDED SHUTDOWN

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESTAURANTS, BUSINESSES AND OTHER FACILITIES

While Dublin San Ramon Services District's (DSRSD) water wholesaler, Zone 7 Water Agency, ensures high quality water for all customers, the water DSRSD delivers is disinfected, but not sterile. Managers of large buildings and campuses should take precautions to ensure the water in their buildings and on their campuses is safe after an extended shutdown.

Water is Perishable Like Any Food or Drink

When water sits in pipes, water heaters, and storage tanks, the chlorine (disinfectant) gradually dissipates. Without that chlorine residual in the building's water systems, microorganisms can grow, causing water quality problems. Some pathogenic microorganisms, notably Legionella, can proliferate inside a building's water system and cause serious disease. In addition, a protective film on the inside of the pipes can erode, which can dissolve the metal pipes.

Fortunately, water quality can be improved with proper cleaning and flushing of the entire plumbing system when a building or facility is returned to service after a prolonged closure.

Flush Before You Open

This is especially important for schools, gyms, hotels, factories, and other facilities that have complicated on-site water systems. Standard maintenance includes checking temperature settings for hot water heaters, and ensuring that tanks, cooling towers, hot tubs, ice machines, soda fountains, dishwashers, and other plumbing components are safe for use.

Flushing clears out low-quality water that accumulated during periods of no or minimal water use and replaces it with high-quality water. Shower heads, faucets and other fixtures should be thoroughly cleaned.

All large buildings should have a comprehensive water management program tailored to the individual on-site water system.

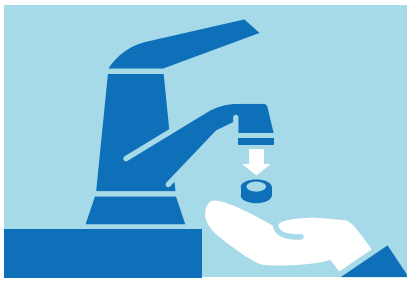
Dublin San Ramon Services District
Water, wastewater, recycled water

For additional guidance, please contact Clint Byrum, Water/Wastewater Systems Superintendent at (925) 875-2367 or customerservice@dsrsd.com. Visit www.dsrsd.com for updates.

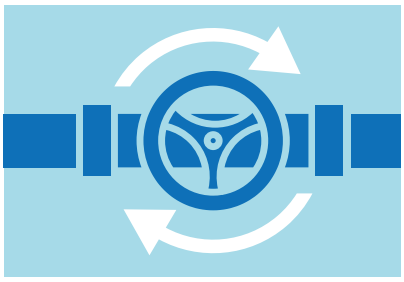
HOW TO FLUSH YOUR WATER SYSTEM

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH MAINTENANCE STAFF, PROPERTY MANAGERS AND TENANTS

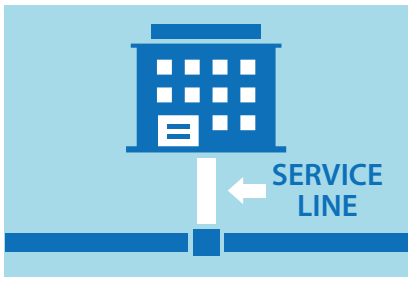
If your business has been idle, the Dublin San Ramon Services District strongly recommends flushing your entire water system to wash out all stagnant water. Flushing water systems also helps clear out lead or copper leaching, often from older pipes.



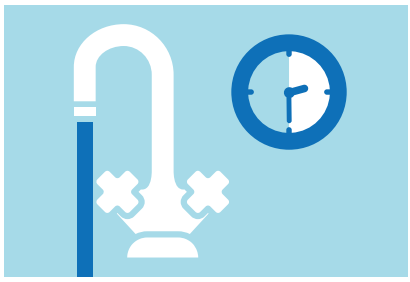
1 **Remove all faucet aerator screens. Set aside.**



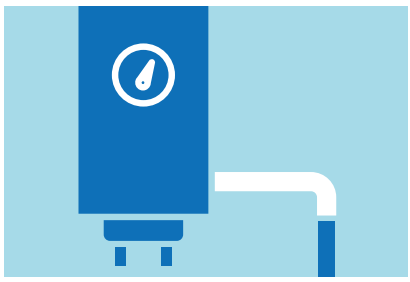
2 **Take steps to prevent backflow or the siphoning of contaminants** into plumbing (e.g., close valves separating irrigation systems from interior plumbing and disconnect hoses attached to faucets).



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, and toilets). Typical durations in existing protocols range from 10 to 30 minutes for each outlet (duration varies based on outlet velocity).



5 **Flush cold water lines first, then hot water lines.** Note: the hot water tank can be drained directly. It can require about 45 minutes to fully flush a typical 40-gallon hot water tank and 75 minutes to fully flush a typical 80-gallon hot water tank.

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

MORE RESOURCES

US EPA Information on Maintaining or Restoring Water Quality in Buildings with Low or No Use
www.epa.gov/coronavirus/information-maintaining-or-restoring-water-quality-buildings-low-or-no-use