

FAQs about Flushing Water Pipes at Your Home or Business

- Q: Do I need to do anything to prepare my faucets for flushing pipes?
 - A: Not typically, but removing the aerator screens before flushing the plumbing may help prevent clogged screens from natural calcium buildup.
- Q: How long should I leave faucets running?
 - A: It can depend on the size of the structure, but a few minutes is usually adequate to exchange the water in the pipes for the cold water supply.
- Q: Do I need to flush pipes from outdoor spigots?
 - A: Yes, you should run water through all your faucets and hose bibs, both inside and outside of your home or business.
- Q: Should I flush my pipes with hot water?
 - A: Yes, but do it after you have flushed the cold water plumbing. If you have a tankless water heater, run the hot water fixtures for a few minutes to allow fresh water into the hot water plumbing. If you have a tank-style water heater, run the hot water fixtures until the water runs cool to exchange the water that has been sitting unused in the tanks. You may need to do this more than once.
- Q: Do I need to flush water used for my built-in water dispenser in my refrigerator or my automatic ice maker? How can I do that?
 - A: Yes, flushing the water dispenser is necessary. You should also change any filter cartridges after the system is flushed. Also, dump old ice from the automatic ice maker and the first new batch of ice after the system is flushed and filters are changed.
- Q: Do I need to flush my water softener or water treatment system? How can I do that?
 - A: Yes, all types of water treatment systems should be flushed if they have been unused for extended periods. Follow manufacturer's recommendations or call a service technician for servicing your specific water treatment system.
- Q: I'm not sure if my water was turned off recently. How can I find this information?
 - A: Call 850-891-4968 for information about your City Utilities account.
- Q: Is tap water safe to drink after flushing my pipes?
 - A: Yes, the City of Tallahassee provides high quality, safe drinking water and continually meets all standards set by the U.S. EPA, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health. You can read the most recent Water Quality Report at Talgov.com/YOU.

For utility-related questions, customers can call 850-891-4968 or visit Talgov.com.