



FLUSHING THE WATER IN YOUR HOME

Year after year, Chicago's water meets the standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for clean, safe drinking water. This is because the Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM) takes a proactive approach to mitigating lead in our water system. While DWM proactively monitors and treats Chicago's water to remove any contaminants - including lead - flushing water in your residence is an important step anyone can take to improve their water quality.

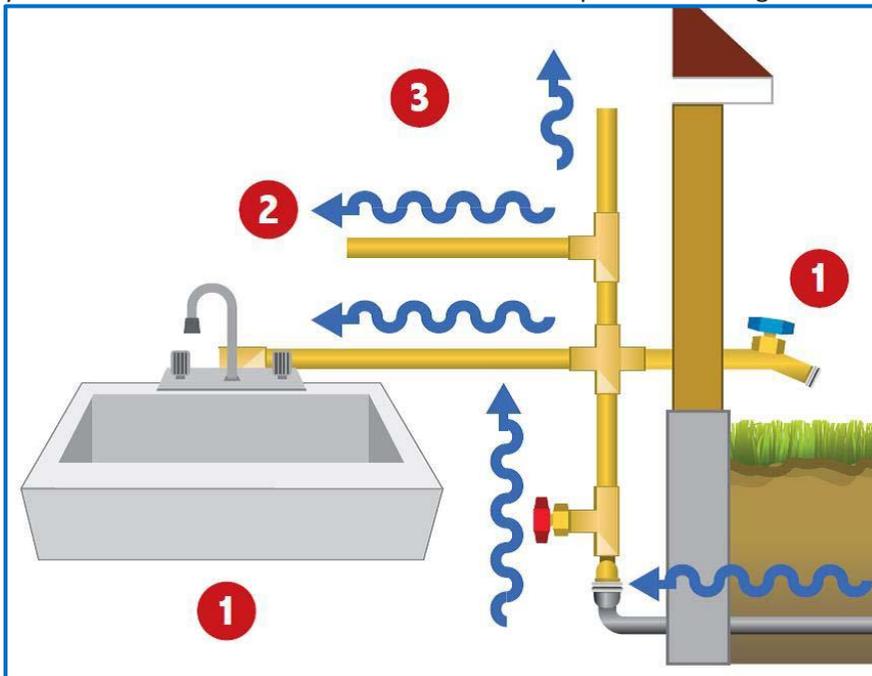
Replacing the City's century old water infrastructure is not a luxury. It's a necessity, and its work that is helping protect the overall water system from contaminants, as well as working efficiently to conserve water. DWM launched the large-scale Water Quality Study on the possible impact of water infrastructure construction on residential lead levels and they are looking for volunteers. If we are replacing water mains in your neighborhood, register for the Water Quality Study today at www.chicagowatertesting.org or by calling 312-742-2406.

Flushing Tips

Stagnant water is more likely to collect contaminants that might have leached into the system. The more your water runs, the cleaner it comes out of the faucet. Turning on a faucet, flushing a toilet, taking a shower, running the dishwasher or doing laundry- all of it counts toward flushing your water system.

Here is how you can properly flush your home to ensure the highest-quality water.

Before you start- sediment, rust and metals, including any lead may collect in the aerator screen located at the tip of your faucets. These screens should be removed prior to flushing.



(1) Find the tap closest to where the water comes into the home that is not used for drinking water. This could be an outside hose spigot, laundry sink faucet or bathtub. Open the cold water tap and let the water run for at least 5 minutes. Next run any other cold water faucets on that floor for at least 5 minutes.

(2) Move to the next highest floor and repeat.

(3) Move to any additional floors in sequence and flush any taps or faucets for at least 5 minutes.

DWM offers free lead testing for residents. Call 311 or visit www.chicagowaterquality.org to request a lead test kit.