

## WHOLE-HOUSE, HIGH VELOCITY FLUSHING TO REMOVE LEAD PARTICLES

### WHERE DOES LEAD COME FROM?

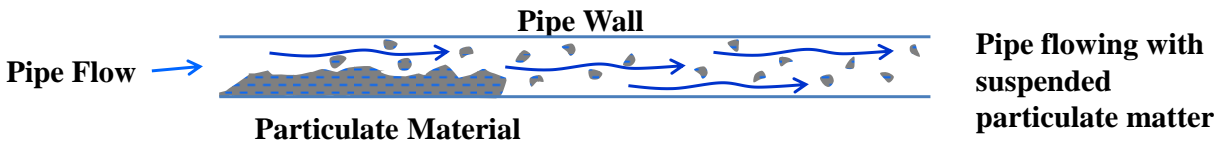
Lead in water can be dissolved or in particles

The lead in your tap water comes from the lead pipes that may be present from the street to your house or from faucets or indoor plumbing with lead.

When the street is disturbed by construction lead particles can come loose from the pipes. Some particles may still be present from the corrosion events and these need to be removed from your home plumbing.

### WHY SHOULD YOU CONDUCT A FLUSH?

Lead particles can be released at random if they are in your pipes, but more particles can be released during construction that disturbs the lead lines



### WHEN SHOULD “HIGH VELOCITY FLUSHING” BE DONE?

- When the City of XXXX informs you about a disturbance, or
- If you have had high lead results.

This type of flushing can dislodge (break loose) lead containing particles in pipes inside the house as well as in the service line between the house and the street.

### CAUTION – SHORT TERM CONSEQUENCES

Research has shown flushing can produce long-term benefits, typically after 2 months, but prior to this the lead may actually be higher – see precautions described in “follow up.”

### WHICH FAUCETS IN YOUR HOUSE TO FLUSH?

All faucets inside your house that can flow to a drain without overflowing in your house should be flushed.

### HOW OFTEN?

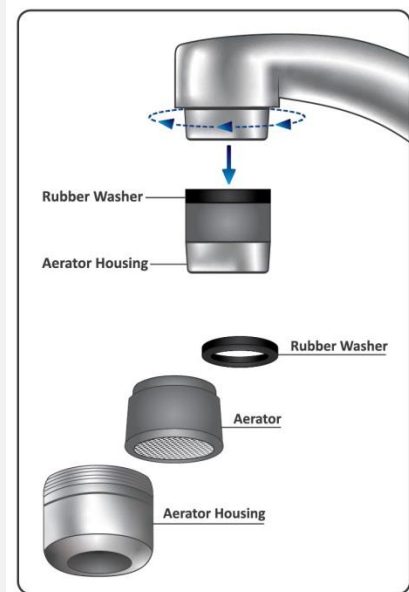
After you perform a flush, the City or State staff will work with you to take lead samples. You will be advised if more flushing is needed.

## PROCEDURE

### ALL FILTERS IN THE HOME MUST BE REMOVED OR BY-PASSED

When possible, it is best to flush at times of the day when neighbors don't use a lot of water – so best to flush from mid-morning to dinner time or late at night

1. Find all the faucets that have good drains, including those in the basement and on all floors in your house.
2. Remove all in-home filters or by-pass them. You cannot flush through a filter.
3. Remove aerators and screens from all faucets or shower heads.
4. Be sure to include the laundry tub, the bathtub, or shower (shower head removed) as flushing points.
5. After all the aerators are removed, open the faucets in the basement or lowest floor in the house. Leave all faucets running at the highest rate possible –using **COLD** water only.
6. After faucets are all open on the lowest floor, open faucets on the next highest floor of the house. Continue until faucets are open on all floors, including tubs and showers (shower head removed).
7. After all faucets are opened, leave them ALL running for at least 30 minutes.
8. After 30 minutes, turn off the 1<sup>st</sup> faucet you opened (lowest floor), and continue to turn off other faucets in the same order you turned them on.
9. Re-install aerators/screens at each faucet – you may need to discard old screens/aerators and replace with new ones if too old or worn.



### CAUTION – MESS FROM WATER SPRAY

Make sure the drain is open and clear so water can flow freely to drain

Make sure water can drain as fast as water is flowing from tap during flushing

When faucet is open at high rate, especially since aerators/screens are removed, it can create a mess due to water spray. Take precautions to either contain or monitor the spray.

### FOLLOW UP

#### (WHAT SHOULD I DO ON DAYS AFTER THE FLUSH?)

- Run tap water each morning for at least 5 min to displace water that has been sitting in pipes inside the house and in the service line. This could include taking a shower, running dishwasher, or running the faucet. Do this **BEFORE** using any water for drinking, cooking, infant formula, etc.
- Clean debris from aerators and screens, once a month for 6 months.
- After 6 months, clean debris from aerators/screens twice a year (for example, in April/October when daylight savings time changes).