



CITY OF ABERDEEN

May 14, 2020

Dear Aberdeen Business Water Customer:

During this unprecedented time, the City of Aberdeen's water treatment facilities and distribution system operates around the clock following all Maryland Department of the Environment and Environmental Protection Agency guidelines and permits. During the mandated closure of nonessential businesses by Governor Hogan's executive order, the water which flows past your meter and into your business may have become stagnant due to lack of usage.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) distributed "Information on Maintaining or Restoring Water Quality in Buildings with Low or No Use" to assist building owners and managers in addressing water stagnation following extended closures due to the COVID-19 response at the following link: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/information-maintaining-or-restoring-water-quality-buildings-low-or-no-use>. With Governor Hogan's recent announcement to transition to Phase I reopening of Maryland businesses; building owners and managers of business need to follow these processes if your business was closed for more than 5 days. It is **imperative** that all interior plumbing be cleared of stagnant water 24 hours prior to being permitted to reopen and allowing you or your staff, or public access to the water.

To clear any stagnant water in your building, flush hot and cold water through all points of use for a minimum of 15 minutes. This will ensure stagnant water in your interior plumbing is removed and allows fresh, treated water to enter. Water left sitting in your interior plumbing for an extended period may lose its chlorine residual needed to keep the water free from bacteria.



For additional guidance, contact the Department of Public Works Superintendent, Curtis Ball, or Assistant Superintendent, George Skinner, at (410) 272-2650 Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sincerely,

Curtis A. Ball
Superintendent
Water & Wastewater Operations

Kyle E. Torster, P.E.
Director of Public Works

George R. Skinner
Assistant Superintendent
Water & Wastewater Operations

RESTORING WATER QUALITY IN BUILDINGS FOR REOPENING

CHECKLIST

Building and business closures for weeks or months reduce water usage, potentially leading to stagnant water inside building plumbing. This water can become unsafe to drink or otherwise use for personal or commercial purposes. EPA recommends that building owners, building managers, and businesses take steps to flush the building's plumbing before reopening.

Flushing involves opening taps and letting the water run to remove water that has been standing in the interior pipes and/or outlets. The flushing time can vary by the plumbing configuration and type of outlet being cleared.

1 BEFORE FLUSHING BUILDINGS

- ☐ Contact your water utility about local water quality and to coordinate maintenance activities.
- ☐ Check information from your local public health department for any local requirements for reopening.
- ☐ Follow appropriate regulations and policies for worker safety and health.

2 STEPS FOR FLUSHING BUILDINGS

- ☐ Review how water moves through your building, from the street to each point of use.
- ☐ Inspect the plumbing.
- ☐ Maintain any water treatment systems (e.g., filters, water-softeners) following manufacturer's instructions.
- ☐ Ensure the hot water system is operating as specified.
- ☐ Flush the service line that runs from the water main to the building.
- ☐ Flush the cold water lines.
- ☐ Drain and clean water storage facilities and hot water heaters.
- ☐ Flush the hot water lines.
- ☐ Flush, clean, and maintain devices connected to the plumbing system following manufacturer's instructions.

Consider checking water quality parameters to verify that fresh water is being flushed through the entire plumbing system.

3 OTHER ACTIONS TO CONSIDER

- ☐ Notify your building occupants of the status of the water systems and the flushing program.
- ☐ Limit access to or use of the water as an appropriate cautionary phase.
- ☐ Determine if proactive disinfection/heat treatment is necessary.
- ☐ Develop a water management program.