

# Drinking Water System Flushing - Guidelines

**Why Flush?** Flushing is opening taps and letting the water run to remove water that has been standing in interior pipes and outlets. Periodic flushing replaces stale water with high quality water from the installation distribution system supply. When water use is lower than usual, take the steps to restore or maintain water quality in your building.



## Water left setting in plumbing for extended periods may lead to:

- **Corrosion:** Destabilization of protective coatings on interior pipe surfaces.
- **Bacterial growth:** The disinfectant level in water declines as water sits without use, creating an environment favorable for potential growth of bacteria.
- **Decreased water quality:** Taste, odor and discoloration problems.

## Recommendations

### Each Use:

- **Duration:** Run each outlet for several seconds - faucets, showers, drinking fountains, etc. Ensure each point-of-use tap is opened at least once per day.

### Regular Flushing:

- **Frequency:** At least weekly.
- **Duration:** Run each outlet for 2-5 minutes or until the water runs cold.
- **Focus Areas:** Prioritize areas with low water usage like restrooms, kitchens, and infrequently used fixtures.

### Extended Non-Use (7 days or more of no occupancy):

- **Assessment:** Consult with Public Works Environmental at the contact below to assess potential risks and recommended flushing protocols.
- **Thorough Flushing:** Flush the entire system. Conducting flushing in segments (e.g., floors, individual rooms). Sequentially flush cold and then hot water.

## Best Practices

- **Documentation:** Maintain a log of flushing activities, including date, time, and duration.
- **Tenant Communication:** Inform tenants about flushing activities and water disruptions.
- **Aerator and Shower Head Maintenance:** Clean aerators at least monthly and replace annually.
- **Point-of-Use Filters:** Replace filters on drinking fountains and ice machines per manufacture's specifications.
- **Regular Inspections:** Conduct routine inspections of the plumbing system for leaks, corrosion, or other issues.

## Additional Resources

- **Water outage questions:** Public Works Outage Coordinator at M-SI-PWD-CUSTOMERSERVICE-GD@eu.navy.mil or 095-086-6013 or contact your Facility Management Specialist.
- **Building-related maintenance:** The PWD service desk can be contacted at M-SI-PWD-CUSTOMERSERVICE-GD@eu.navy.mil to submit service requests for routine building-related maintenance, such as point-of-entry filters, check valve-backflow preventers, and faucet and shower aerators.
- **Housing Marinai Trouble Calls:** 095-784-8690 / Housing Office 095-56-1731
- **Health related information:** USNH Preventive Medicine Authority at DSN 624-6249/6230 (commercial 095-86-6249/6230) or duty cell at 334 647-9561.
- **Information on NAS Sigonella water systems:** NAS Sigonella, Public Works Environmental Department at DSN 624-2725 or commercial 095-86-2725.
- **Resources:**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/control-legionella/php/wmp/index.html>  
<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/information-maintaining-or-restoring-water-quality-buildings-low-or-no-use>
- **NASSIG Annual Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Reports:**  
<https://cnreurafcnt.cnlic.navy.mil/Installations/NAS-Sigonella/Operations-and-Management/Environmental-Support/>

## Flushing Log

**Building/Location:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Unit/Command:**\_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Note: In addition to routine flushing documented by this log, all drinking fountains, breakroom/kitchen faucets and bathroom faucets should be flushed for a minimum of 30 seconds prior to each use.

# Flush Me First!

Help maintain water quality.  
Please run the water for a few  
seconds before use.