



Portland Water District  
FROM SEBAGO LAKE TO CASCO BAY

## Flushing Drinking Water Lines

If it is recommended that you flush your household or building water lines, you may use the following guidance. Flushing your household and building water lines includes: interior and exterior faucets, showers, water/ice dispensers, water treatment units, etc.

**Cold Water Faucets:** First open and run for a minimum of 5 minutes all cold-water faucets in the premises, including kitchen, bathroom, shower and other faucets, including outdoor faucets. If you have a single-lever faucet, set it to run the cold water first.

**Hot Water Faucets:** Next, change all faucets to hot water and flush hot water for a minimum of 15 minutes for a typical household 40-gallon hot water tank. Flush for a minimum of 30 minutes for an 80-gallon hot water tank or larger.

**Dishwashers and laundry washing machines:** Run empty dishwashers and laundry washing machines one complete cycle. Rewash any clothes washed on the day or days the water was contaminated. (If unsure of the dates contact the Portland Water District).

**Humidifiers:** Discard any water used in humidifiers, Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), oral, medical or health care devices, and rinse the device with clean water.

**Food and baby formula:** Discard baby formula and other foods prepared with water on the day or days the water was contaminated.

**Ice cubes:** Ice cubes made on the day or days the water was contaminated should be discarded. Automatic ice dispensers should be emptied and run through a 24-hour cycle, discarding the ice at the end of each cycle to assure purging of the icemaker water supply line.

Due to the flushing of the lines by residents and the flushing of the hydrants, some customers may experience a lack of water pressure and/or discolored water. However, this is an expected result and does not pose an immediate health risk. Contact us if you have any questions.

