



Fact Sheet

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Flushing Mondays

Flushing is a tool schools and child care facilities can use to improve overall water quality. The potential for lead to leach into water can increase the longer the water remains in contact with lead in plumbing. As a result, facilities with intermittent water use patterns, such as schools and child care facilities, may have elevated lead concentrations. Flushing can be used as a regular practice, i.e., “Flushing Mondays,” to ensure water is regularly moving. The purpose of flushing is to clear the plumbing between the faucet and the service connection.

- Flushing involves opening taps and letting water run to remove water that has been standing in interior pipes and/or outlets.
- The potential for lead to leach into water can increase the longer the water remains in contact with lead in plumbing.
- In schools and child care facilities, establishing an ongoing flushing program is a quick and easy solution to ensure water quality is preserved by decreasing the length of time the water sits in the pipes.
- Flushing does not require installation or maintenance of water treatment equipment or complex instructions.

Flushing Instructions

1. Locate the faucet furthest away from the service line (connects the public water system line to the school or day care building) on each wing and floor of the building and open the faucets. Keep the faucets open/let the water flow for approximately 10-minutes.
2. Open valves at all drinking water fountains without refrigeration units and let the water run for roughly 30 seconds to one minute, or until cold.
3. Open all kitchen and cafeteria faucets (and other faucets where water will be used for drinking and/or cooking) and let the water run for 30-seconds to one minute, or until cold.
4. Remember that each drinking water outlet should be flushed individually; flushing a toilet will not flush your water fountains.

Additional Resources:

The resources below provide more information:

- [3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water](#) (2018)
- [Environmental Protection Agency's 3 T's Revised Manual](#)

For more information, call Jocelyn Walters-Brannon, DHEC Bureau of Water Public Participation Coordinator 803.898.4096.