



June 24, 2020  
**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

**As Erie County prepares to enter the  
Green Phase on June 26<sup>th</sup>  
EWW Encourages Businesses to Flush Building  
Water Systems After Prolonged Shutdown to  
Restore or Maintain Water Quality**

As the Erie Region's water purveyor it is the mission of Erie Water Works (EWW) to provide its customers with a continuous, uninterrupted supply of quality water. Because water quality diminishes when water sits stagnant within a building's piping system, EWW strongly recommends local business owners who may have been shut down for an extended period, flush their building's water system in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines as they are able to reopen and the COVID-19 restrictions lessen. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>

The following are some additional tips for flushing a building's plumbing:

- The building's wastewater system must be operational with sinks and drains open and free of debris.
- Flushing times will vary depending on the configuration and/or composition of the water supply piping in each building as well as other factors such as water pressure and flow rate.
- All in-home water treatment systems and other point-of-use (POU) filters such as faucet filters, and ice and water refrigerator filters should be removed or bypassed prior to flushing. All POU filters should be adequately maintained on a regular basis.
- Faucet aerators should also be removed prior to flushing to prevent particulate build-up.
- Prevent backflow or siphoning of contaminants into the building's plumbing system by disconnecting hoses attached to hose bibs or faucets. Also make certain to close valves connected to irrigation systems and other potentially hazardous operational systems within the structure.
- Some hot water heaters may need to be flushed before starting the flushing procedure for the hot water lines. Most hot water tanks can be drained directly at the tank. It can take up to 45 minutes to fully flush a typical 40-gallon water heater tank. Consult a plumber or the tank manufacturer for more information if unsure.
- Start the flushing at the lowest elevation, closest to where the water service line enters the building, then continue to higher elevations.
- Complete the flushing of the cold water throughout the building, then begin again at the starting point with flushing the hot water.
- Remember to replace POU filters, aerators and reopen valves after flushing is complete.

For further assistance, call the Erie Water Works at (814) 870-8000 and ask to be directed to the Engineering Dept.