



City of Rahway

Water Quality Assurance Initiative (“WQAI”)

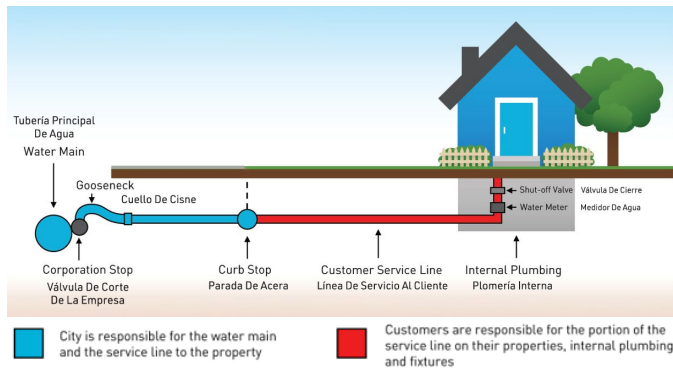
Water Service Flushing Instructions

A portion or all of your water service line was recently replaced. Please follow these instructions to flush your water service line after a lead service line replacement.

NOTE

After your lead service line has been replaced, it is important to flush all of the pipes in your house. Flushing will remove any lead that may have entered the pipes in your house during construction. You should flush all interior plumbing the same day or before the next time you use your water. **DO NOT USE** hot water until the initial flushing is completed to prevent lead particles from settling in your hot water tank.

The ___ customer side/ ___ street side of your water service line was recently replaced by contractors working on behalf of the City of Rahway. The ___ customer side/ ___ street side of the water service line was made of lead or contained galvanized components. The work may temporarily increase lead levels by disrupting the redeposited lead in scale of the plumbing in your building. Because a service line replacement was performed, the City of Rahway has provided you with a pitcher with a WQA-certified filter that removes lead. Please use the pitcher and follow the instructions below to reduce the potential for lead in your home’s water.



DO NOT CONSUME ANY TAP WATER OR FILTERED WATER FROM YOUR REFRIGERATOR PRIOR TO CONDUCTING THE PROCEDURES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES. THROW AWAY ANY ICE FROM YOUR FREEZER. IF YOU HAVE AN AUTOMATIC ICEMAKER, SHUT IT OFF.

FLUSHING INSTRUCTIONS

The City of Rahway strongly recommends following these instructions, in accordance with AWWA Standards¹

SECTION A – COMPLETE FLUSH OF YOUR HOMES WATER SYSTEM

FREQUENCY: Conduct this flushing every two (2) weeks for three (3) months

1. Turn on a faucet on the outside of your home and leave it running at the highest rate possible. Flushing should continue for at least ten minutes (longer if there is visible appearance of particulates or other matter in the water being flushed).
2. Locate all faucets, laundry tubs, sinks, bathtubs, showers, and hose bibs that have a proper drain. Remove all screens and aerators, including showerheads, and make sure all drains are clear. Fully extend flexible faucets for flushing.
3. Turn off or bypass any water softener or filtration system to allow for maximum flow.
4. Turn on the cold-water faucets in the basement (or lowest floor). Leave all faucets running at the highest rate.
5. Turn on the cold-water faucets on the next highest floor. Continue until all faucets are running on all floors.
6. Record the order in which the faucets were turned on.
7. Leave water running for at least 30 minutes.
8. Turn off the faucets in the same order they were turned on.
9. Clean or replace the faucet aerators and screens before you re-attach. Separate the individual parts and, if necessary, soak them in white vinegar for a few minutes and scrub with a brush.

SECTION B – DAILY FLUSHING BEFORE USE

FREQUENCY: Conduct this flushing before using water for cooking or drinking for the next six (6) months

¹ Standard C810-17 Replacement and Flushing of Lead Service is available at AWWA’s website at www.awwa.org/Store
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1. For the next six months, flush your home daily in the morning or when the water sits in the pipe for six or more hours.
2. Flush all faucets used for drinking, cooking, making infant formula or brushing teeth.
3. Flushing could also include taking showers, washing clothes or dishes or collecting water for gardening.

SECTION C – CLEAN AERATORS AND SCREENS

FREQUENCY: Conduct this cleaning once a month for six (6) months. Thereafter, clean aerators at least twice a year.

1. Remove faucet aerators and clean out any particles that may have accumulated there.
2. The aerator is usually at the tip of the faucet and can be screwed off to clean.

ADDITIONAL STEPS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

- Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you have not had your water sampled or if you know your water has lead, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.
- Determine if you have interior lead plumbing or solder. If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord.
- Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead. Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of “lead free” from 2014 (as explained above). Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.
- If a portion of your service line is still lead, consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on water filter performance standards. Maintain and replace a filter in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.
- Water softeners and reverse osmosis units will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

TESTING YOUR WATER FOR LEAD

Veolia recommends, in accordance with AWWA standards, that the property owner have their water tested by a certified laboratory at least one month after the replacement to allow for sufficient in-house flushing and a period of normal use of water to occur. Samples collected should be representative of first draw (initial water drawn from the tap after the water has been unused for at least 6 hours) and a flushed sample representative of water that was stagnant for at least 6 hours in the remaining lead portion of the service line.

Customers can contact an independent laboratory to have their water tested for lead. To access the NJDEP’s list of certified laboratories, please visit <https://njems.nj.gov/DataMiner>. Once there, click **Search by Category** then select **Certified Laboratories** from the Report Category drop down box. Then click on the **Submit** button and under Certified Laboratories choose **Drinking Water Certified Lead Labs**.

MORE INFORMATION

- If you have more questions, please contact the City of Rahway Engineering Department at 732-827-2176 or engineering@cityofrahway.com or the City of Rahway’s licensed water operator, Veolia, at 732-388-0086 or CSRahway@veolia.com.
- Visit www.mywater.veolia.us or the EPA’s website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.
- Contact your health care provider or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD or the Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 1-800-426-4791.