



## St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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### **MEDIA RELEASE:**

*St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission*

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### **Tips For Flushing Your Building's Water System and Devices**

CALIFORNIA, MD (May 29, 2020) – As businesses begin the re-entry process after being closed, the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission (MetCom), would like to pass along some important tips you can do to ensure your internal plumbing system is "ready to go". If your commercial or retail business has been closed for an extended period of time and is connected to public water supply, we recommend these precautions to ensure your internal plumbing system has clean fresh water flowing through it before you open for business.

The MetCom public water supply is treated to ensure that your water continues to meet State and Federal guidelines for safe drinking water! Unfortunately, disinfectants will dissipate from stagnant water inside of plumbing if there has been a long period of little to no water flow. The stagnant water has the potential to introduce the growth of bacteria and other potential pathogens in your plumbing, including your hot water tank. The good news is that there is an easy and simple way to ensure that your internal plumbing is "ready to go" for you, your customers and occupants! **In short, please flush your system** using the following tips:

- ✓ If available in larger buildings, obtain a list or schematic of tagged valve locations and devise process for the flushing procedures.
- ✓ Disconnect hoses and close valves to prevent backflow or siphoning of contaminants back into plumbing.
- ✓ Flush hot and cold water through all points of use (e.g., showers, sink faucets)
- ✓ Flushing may need to occur in segments (e.g., floors or individual rooms) due to facility size and water pressure.
- ✓ The purpose of building flushing is to replace ALL water inside building piping with fresh water.
- ✓ Flush building zone by zone. The first zone to be flushed should be the one nearest the building supply and then working outward from the supply.
- ✓ Cold water lines should be flushed before hot water.
- ✓ Remove all aerators from faucets before turning on water.
- ✓ Run water through all outlets. Parts of the water system most important to flush are drinking fountains, ice machines, refrigerators with ice machines, faucets used for drinking water or food preparation, kitchen sink sprayers, and showers.
- ✓ Run Water through each line for a minimum of 10 minutes.
- ✓ Repeat the process for your hot water lines.
- ✓ Replace all point-of-use filters, including filters in appliances like a refrigerator.
- ✓ Follow additional flushing guidance at: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html)

The Metropolitan Commission tests our water supply constantly and is committed to ensuring the water that we provide to our customers is safe to drink. These simple steps are easy to do and will help ensure the water in your business is as fresh as can be! For additional assistance or questions, please contact the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission at 301-737-7400 or our authorized Cross-Connection Control Program Contractor HydroCorp Toll Free at 844-493-7641.

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