

# FLUSHING YOUR APPLIANCES WHEN WATER SERVICE IS RESTORED

## GUIDANCE

When water services are restored after having been shut off for a period of time, it is necessary to flush the plumbing components in your home. Guidance on flushing your whole house plumbing is described in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE's) document, "*Flushing Your House Plumbing System When Water Services Are Restored*" located at [Michigan.gov/DrinkingWater](https://www.michigan.gov/DrinkingWater).

In addition to flushing your house plumbing system, you should also flush all appliances that use water for consumption. This guidance document is to help homeowners understand how to flush those appliances.

## FLUSHING APPLIANCES THAT USE WATER FOR CONSUMPTION

### Refrigerators with Ice Makers and/or Water Dispensers

AFTER flushing your home's plumbing, replace all filters associated with the refrigerator. Then flush the cold-water dispenser for five minutes. This can be done by filling and dumping a cup repeatedly.

Let the ice maker container fill up completely. Then, discard the ice and clean the container before replacing it. If you have more than one refrigerator, make sure you perform the same procedure on those units as well.

### Stand-alone Ice Makers

AFTER flushing your home's plumbing, replace any filters associated with the ice maker's water line. These filters require routine replacement. This would be a good time to replace the filter and ensure that the water line is completely flushed. Let the ice maker's container fill up completely. Then, discard the first batch of ice and clean the container or compartment.

### Water Softeners

During the initial flushing of the house, it is recommended that you bypass any water softeners prior to flushing. Once flushing is completed, the softener should be forced to do a regeneration cycle before being put into service. If you are unsure of how to manually initiate a regeneration cycle, refer to your softener's owner manual or call your equipment supplier for assistance.

### Humidifiers, CPAP and other devices

Throw away any water used in humidifiers, Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), oral, medical or healthcare devices, and rinse the device with clean water.

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