

# FLUSHING

## YOUR PLUMBING

AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES

### WHO SHOULD FLUSH THEIR PLUMBING?

All schools, private schools and child care centres

### HOW OFTEN SHOULD PLUMBING BE FLUSHED?

How often you flush depends on several factors including:

- the age of the plumbing in the building
- lead test results from previous drinking water sampling
- the location and use of drinking water fixtures
- if there is an NSF certified filter installed on a drinking water fixture

#### DAILY — Flush daily if:

- any part of your plumbing was installed prior to 1990 and you have fewer than two consecutive years of lead test results  
*or*
- there has been an exceedance of the standard for lead in the past 24 months  
*or*
- your facility has been directed to flush daily

#### WEEKLY — Flush weekly if:

- any part of your plumbing was installed prior to 1990, you have at least two consecutive years of lead test results and there has been no exceedance of the standard for lead in the past 24 months  
*or*
- no plumbing was installed prior to 1990 and there has been no exceedance of the standard for lead in the past 24 months

#### NO FLUSHING

Applicable to all fixtures, except for “end of branch” taps. Flushing is not required for:

- fountains and taps where the most recent standing sample was at or below 1 µg/L, including with an NSF filter
- taps that do not provide drinking water or are not used to prepare food or drink for children under 18

## HOW TO FLUSH YOUR PLUMBING

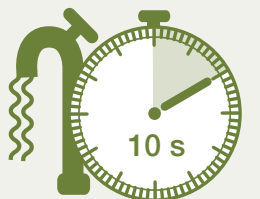
- 1. SCHEDULE** a time to do your flushing so that it starts and ends before your facility opens for the day or week. If, for example, the facility has overnight programs or is a boarding school and there is no clear time when the facility opens for the day then simply complete the flushing as early as practical.



- 2. FOR 5 MINUTES**, flush the plumbing by running the cold water tap at the end of each branch or run of pipe that serves drinking water taps and fountains or taps used to prepare food or drink for children under 18. All the 5 minute flushing must be complete before moving to the next step.



- 3. FOR 10 SECONDS**, flush every drinking water fountain and any tap that provides drinking water or is used to prepare food or drink for children under 18.



- 4. RECORD** the date, time and location of the completed flushing. Also record the name of the person who did the flushing or verified that any automatic flushing devices worked properly.



#### ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- The standard for lead can be found in Ontario Regulation 169/03 (Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards).
- Do not remove the aerator when flushing.
- If, for a given day or week, a part of the building will not be used to provide services or hold programs for children under 18, then flushing is not required in that part of the building.

For more information about flushing and sampling for lead, visit [www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater](http://www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater)

Disclaimer: This is a guide only and should not be relied on for compliance purposes. To be clear about your specific legal requirements refer to the text of Ontario Regulation 243/07 (Schools, Private Schools and Child Care Centres) and the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002. Schools, private schools and child care centres that operate their own drinking water systems are also regulated under Ontario Regulation 170/03 (Drinking Water Systems) and have additional legal requirements.