



# Water Service Line Replacement at Your Home: Flushing Instructions

Your new copper water service line has been installed, replacing your old lead water service line. Please follow the instructions below to minimize your risk of lead exposure through your plumbing.



Questions about  
replacing your lead  
service line?

**Phone:**  
(718) 595-5322

**Email:**  
leadservices@dep.nyc.gov

**DEP's Website**  
nyc.gov/leadpipe



DEP0025

## 1



**Beginning TODAY, before using your water; Flush all plumbing in your house following these instructions.**

**Continue to flush your water once every 2 weeks for 3 months:**

- ❑ Remove ALL faucet screens (aerators).
- ❑ Run all faucets including sinks, showers, bathtubs, and laundry tubs.
  - ❑ Start by running COLD water from all of the faucets in the lowest floor of your house (such as the basement) and then open the faucets on the next highest floor of the house. Continue until all faucets are open on all floors.
  - ❑ After all of the faucets are opened, leave the COLD water running for at least 30 minutes.
  - ❑ After 30 minutes, turn off the first faucet you opened and continue to turn off the other faucets in the same order you turned them on.
- ❑ Put back the faucet screens after flushing.

**Flush daily for the next 6 months:**

- ❑ Run faucet for 5 minutes each morning or after 6 hours of non-use.

**After 6 months:**

- ❑ Clear debris from faucet screens 2 times per year.

## 2



**3-6 Months after your service line is replaced:**

- ❑ If you have not already received a test kit in the mail, 3 to 6 months after your service line replacement, you can request a free lead test kit, by calling 311 or at [nyc.gov/311](http://nyc.gov/311)
- ❑ The kits come with easy-to-follow instructions and a pre-paid label to send it to a laboratory for lead analysis.
- ❑ Results will be mailed to you within 30 days of the sample arriving at the laboratory.

## 3



**To continue to reduce your risk of lead exposure through your plumbing:**

- ❑ Run your water for at least 2 minutes or until it gets cold. Once the water is cold, run it for 15 seconds more.
- ❑ Use COLD water for cooking, drinking, or preparing infant formula. Hot tap water is more likely to contain lead and other metals.
- ❑ Remove and clean the faucet screens regularly, where small particles can get trapped.
- ❑ Use the provided pitcher filter for your drinking water for 6 months.