

Village of Scotia : Post-Digging Flushing Instructions Notice

Valued Village Residents,

The Village of Scotia is in the process of inventorying all water service lines in the village. Technical assistance providers contracted through the GLO Initiative performed exploratory digging (also known as potholing) in front of your property where the shut-off valve is located, to identify your water service line material. Following digging, flushing your home's water plumbing is an important part of the process. We recommend that you follow the instructions detailed on this flyer to minimize potential exposure to lead in drinking water. ***We value your partnership in this effort!***

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF FLUSHING?

Performing flushing in your home following exploratory digging clears water service lines. This process helps to move fresh water through the plumbing in your home—and help flush out any debris that may have been disrupted during the digging process.

WHAT TO DO AFTER DIGGING

- **FLUSH:** Flush your plumbing and clean faucet aerators per the guidance in this flyer.
- **WHEN:** Right after digging is complete, then routinely per the instructions on this flyer.
- **WHY:** After a lead service line disturbance, the lead level may temporarily increase in drinking water. Flushing your plumbing can help reduce potential lead exposure.

SERVICE LINE MATERIAL: Exploratory digging in front of your property observed the following pipe material(s) for your water service line:

☐ Copper ☐ Lead ☐ Galvanized ☐ Plastic ☐ Inconclusive ☐ Other: _____

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO REDUCE POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO LEAD:

Home Flushing – Day of Digging: Run your cold-water to flush household plumbing after digging is complete, **BEFORE** you use any cold or hot water.

1. Find a faucet that will drain, such as a basement utility sink, bathtub, or outdoor hose bib. Avoid using locations with clogged or blocked drains where water might overflow.
2. Slowly open the cold water tap and leave the faucet running at the highest rate possible for **at least 5 minutes**, especially on larger diameter (>1 inch) and/or long service lines (>50ft) that are identified or potentially lead service lines or galvanized service lines requiring replacement. If the faucet has a lower flow rate (e.g., water flowing is smaller than the width of a standard Sharpie marker), we encourage you to flush longer at **10 minutes**.
3. Clean aerator/screen if present on the faucet you flushed. You may need to replace screen/aerator if too old or worn. Routine aerator cleaning is also a good practice at other faucets.
4. Before using water for drinking, cooking, or preparing infant formula at any other tap not yet flushed after digging, follow Step 3 again to run the water at that location for **at least 5 minutes**.

ADDITIONAL ROUTINE ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE POTENTIAL LEAD EXPOSURE

- **Ongoing Routine Flushing:** The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more lead it may contain. As a precaution, it is recommended that you perform a mini-flush of your home plumbing by running your tap water each morning and other times when the water sits in the pipes for at least 6 hours ***BEFORE*** using any water for drinking, cooking, preparing infant formula, and so on.

Flush for **at least 5 minutes** to displace water that has been sitting in the pipes inside your home and in the service line. This could include taking a shower, running the dishwasher, flushing a toilet, collecting water for plants/garden, or running the faucet.

- **Aerator Cleaning:** Clean debris from aerators and screens at faucets used for drinking/cooking once a month for 6 months. After 6 months, clean debris twice a year (<https://tinyurl.com/42hjmsyj>).
- **Water Filters:** Use a water filter, third-party certified for lead removal (e.g., NSF/ANSI 53), for 6 months and replace cartridges per manufacturer instructions. To learn more about how to identify a filter to reduce lead in drinking water, visit <https://tinyurl.com/46fr2ybk>.

Homes may have internal plumbing materials containing lead, such as brass or chrome-plated brass faucets installed before 2014 and plumbing with lead solder. Consider replacing any lead-containing plumbing materials in your household plumbing (<https://tinyurl.com/34bahn3h>).

For additional information about reducing lead in drinking water, visit the U.S. EPA Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water at <https://tinyurl.com/p36pv7yj>.