

Flushing Instructions AFTER an Advisory is Lifted

Produced by Virginia Department of Health

Follow these instructions to flush the water throughout your home, restaurant, place of business or other location once an advisory has been lifted.

1. Run outside taps for approximately 10 minutes to bring fresh water from the water main to the property.
2. If you have any cartridge filtration systems treating the water coming into the house, replace the filter(s) before consuming.
3. If you have a water softener treating the water coming into the house, perform a regeneration/backwash cycle to bring fresh water from the property to the treatment system.
4. Run all cold-water faucets in your home for one minute to bring fresh water from the property or treatment systems into the cold-water plumbing inside the house.
 - a. Start at the faucet closest to the connection of the water line into the house and proceed to faucets on lower levels of the house and then upper levels of the house.
5. Clean any aerators on faucets.
6. Run the hot water in a tub for 10 minutes to replace water in the hot water heater.

For more information reach out to VDH: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/contact-us/>

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/boil-water-advisory-guidance/>

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/14/2025/03/Flushing-Instructions-AFTER-an-Advisory-is-Lifted.docx>