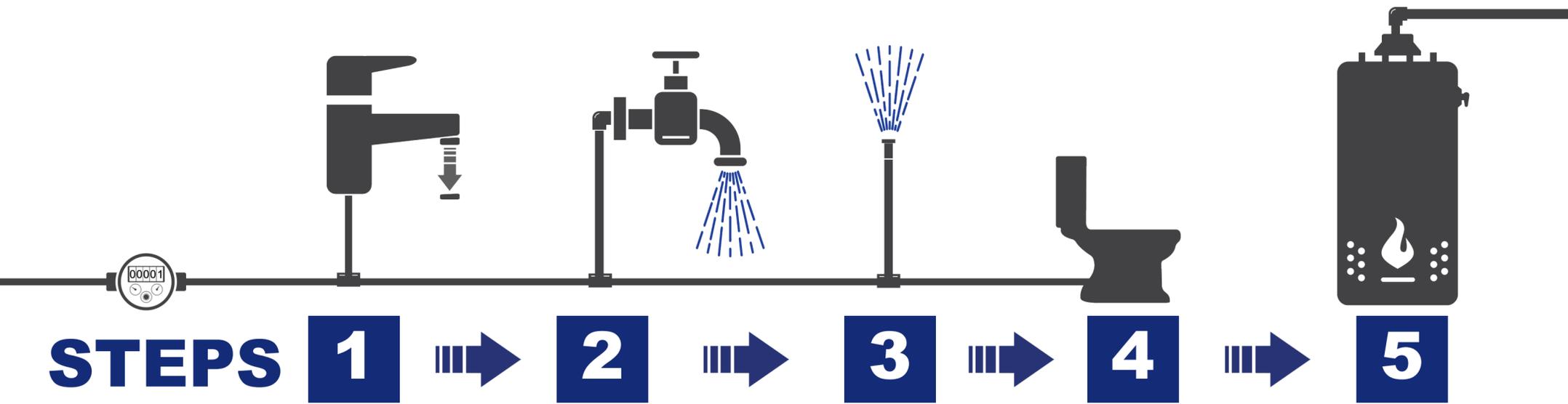


# HAS YOUR FACILITY BEEN CLOSED FOR A FEW WEEKS? **FLUSH THE WATER PIPES.**

If your building or facility has been closed or idle for weeks, Des Moines Water Works encourages you to follow these five easy steps to flush your water lines. Flushing your water lines is an easy way to help maintain water quality by moving the older water out of the pipes, allowing fresh water into your facility. Remember: After water flows through the meter on your business, building owners are responsible for maintaining water quality.



**1 DISCONNECT** or bypass any entry point and point of use treatment equipment e.g., filters or softeners and remove faucet aerators.

**2 FLUSH** the service line first by locating and opening several cold water faucets closest to the water line point of entry (meter) and allow to run for a minimum of 15 minutes. Next, open the remaining cold water faucets in succession and flush for a minimum of 8 minutes each.

**3 FLUSH** all appliances that use water. Run an empty load in the dishwasher, let the water flow through drinking water fountains and kitchen sink sprayers. Empty the ice from the ice maker bin, run and discard two additional batches of ice.

**4 FLUSH** all toilets, spas and water features like fountains. Follow manufacturer's instructions on filter replacement.

**5 INCREASE** the temperature in the hot water heater to its highest setting and wait 30 minutes. Next, starting with the faucet closest to the water heater, open all hot water faucets in succession and run for 8 minutes. Repeat until hot water is depleted.

## **NEXT:**

- Replace filters or service equipment according to manufacturer's instructions once flushing is complete.
- Remember to turn off all faucets and reset the water heater.

These are general guidelines for smaller simple building plumbing systems. For more specific guidelines for large or multi story buildings with complex plumbing systems refer to the following links:

- <https://www.iapmo.org/media/23575/flushing-stagnant-plumbing-systems.pdf>
- <https://engineering.purdue.edu/PlumbingSafety/resources/flushing-plans>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>