

Flint Residential Flushing Protocol

Regular household use of water is essential to get orthophosphate, the corrosion control chemical, into the service lines so they can be coated to protect you against lead exposure. In addition, data from Virginia Tech, EPA, and MDEQ indicate that release of loose particulate lead rust and scale is a significant factor in samples of water with very high lead concentrations that occur almost randomly in the Flint system. Removing these particles and helping to coat the pipes with orthophosphate scale is a high priority.

We are recommending the following residential flushing protocol to flush out the particles and to get orthophosphate scale onto the pipes.

- 1) Run the cold water at the highest flow at your bathtub faucet for **5 minutes**. Do not use the showerhead because it has a lower flow rate. If your bathtub does not have a faucet tap, run the cold water at a laundry tub with the aerator removed or the outside hose spigot. The goal is to flush the water from the pipe at a very high flow rate to remove the loose particles and to coat the pipes with orthophosphate.
- 2) After completing the flushing described in Step 1:
 - a) Bypass or remove the filter on your kitchen tap, if you have one
(If you do not have a filter, we recommend that you get one.)
 - b) Run the cold water at the highest flow at your kitchen tap for **5 minutes**.
(Again, the goal is to remove the loose rust and particles from your pipes and to coat the pipes with orthophosphate.)
 - c) Reinstall/turn your filter back on.
- 3) **Repeat Step 1 and Step 2 every day for two weeks.**
- 4) After the second week, use your water as you would have normally used it prior to the water emergency, so water containing orthophosphate can continue to flow through and coat your pipes. **Filtered water should be used for drinking and cooking.**

[Note: When running the cold water at your bathtub or laundry tub or kitchen sink in the Steps above, please be sure to monitor the draining of the water and adjust the flow or turn off the water as needed to prevent water from overflowing the tub or sink.]