



FAQs for Business Owners

Can I use stagnant water for business uses?

- MPS recommends fully flushing stagnant water from premise plumbing prior to use for business purposes.

Where does water come into my building?

- Fresh water goes from the watermain in the street, through a curb stop, to the water meter and finally into the premise plumbing.

Why is flushing stagnant water important within buildings that have experienced a prolonged shutdown?

- Stagnant water can cause conditions that increase the risk for growth and spread of pathogenic bacteria such as *Legionella*.
- Stagnant water can cause low or undetectable levels of disinfectant (*chloramines*).

How do I flush stagnant water from my building's plumbing?

- MPS recommends flushing hot and cold water individually, at all points of use, until room temperature water within the plumbing is replaced with cold water dispensing from the tap, and the hot water from the water heater reaches its maximum temperature. Take caution to prevent burns by excessive increases in water heater temperatures.
 - NOTE: Flushing all points of use may need to be staggered to prevent lower water pressure in the building. Points of use include sink faucets, showers, and other areas people interact with water from the plumbing system.

How long do I need to flush my premise plumbing to replace stagnant water?

- This depends upon the size of the building. Smaller buildings will take less time than large buildings to fully replace stagnant water within the plumbing.
- When room temperature water is replaced with the coldest water (tap water), and the hot water coming from the hot water heater is at its maximum temperature, water should be sufficiently flushed in the building.