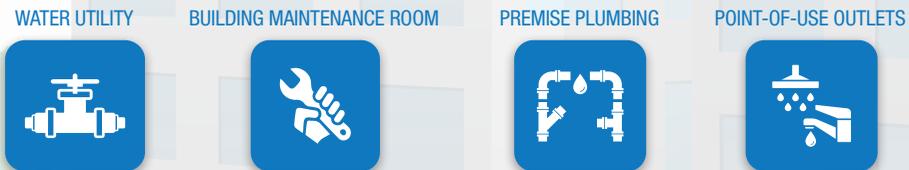# OPEN SAFE
5 Steps to Safety

When preparing to reopen your business or facility after a building closing, stagnant water poses an increased risk of Legionella and other waterborne pathogens. Follow these 5 steps to help ensure water safety during the reopening process.

1 Map Your Plumbing System

Identify low-use water outlets and map out your flushing regime. Going zone by zone, start at the outlet nearest the water supply and proceed to the most distal outlets.

2 Flushing & Cleaning

WATER UTILITY   **BUILDING MAINTENANCE ROOM**   **PREMISE PLUMBING**   **POINT-OF-USE OUTLETS**

1. **Initial Flush**
2. **Sequenced Flushing**
3. **Clean F&E**
4. **Test & Monitor**
5. **Additional Flushing**

Initial flushing and cleaning must be completed before resuming normal building operations.

The sooner you start flushing the better. If possible, have staff start flushing now, even if the building's reopening date is still unknown.

The earlier a flushing regime is initiated means an earlier recovery to normal water quality.

3 Monitor & Test

BEFORE INITIAL FLUSH   **DURING INITIAL FLUSH**   **DURING ONGOING FLUSH**

Monitoring and testing for Legionella, other bacteria, and disinfectant concentration is the only way to know the health of your plumbing system.
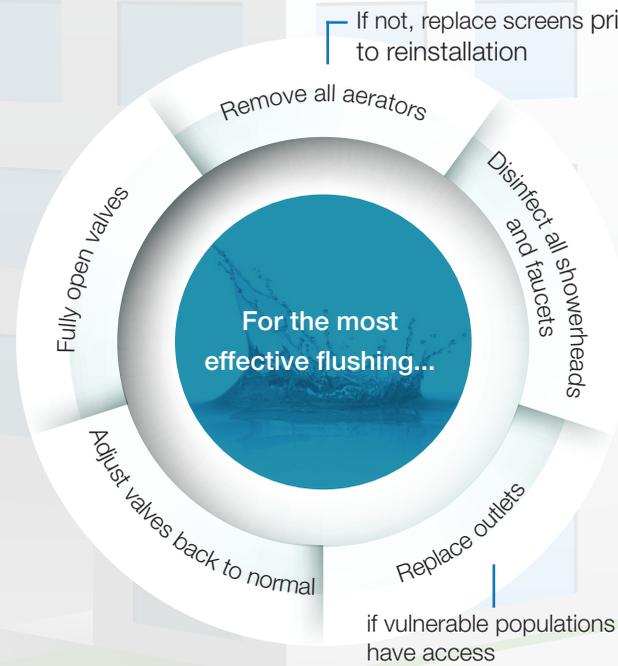
For the most effective flushing...

- Remove all aerators — If not, replace screens prior to reinstallation
- Disinfect all showerheads and faucets
- Replace outlets — if vulnerable populations have access
- Adjust valves back to normal
- Fully open valves

RID
Recommission
Inspect
Disinfect

4 Recommissioning

- Before reopening, inspect all plumbing and mechanical equipment
- Disinfect all equipment and fixtures
- Follow manufacturer guidelines
- Contact proper authorities when required

5 Maintain Your System

- If you didn't have a water management plan prior to the disruption create one immediately.
- Schedule monitoring and testing of disinfectants, bacteria levels, and water temperature.
  - Follow your plan
  - Document activities
  - Address issues
  - Notify authorities if necessary

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