



# Homeowner Guide: Flushing Your Plumbing After a Water Meter Replacement

After your new water meter is installed, it's normal for small amounts of air or sediment to enter your plumbing system. Flushing your lines helps ensure clean, clear water and protects at fixtures.

## Recommended Steps

### 1. Start with Cold Water

- **PROTECT YOUR HOT WATER HEATER. DO NOT USE YOUR HOT WATER BEFORE THE FLUSH IS COMPLETED**
  - Turn on the **cold-water faucet** at the bathtub or an outdoor spigot (Preferred if available).
  - Let the water run for **5–10 minutes** or until it runs clear.
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### 2. Flush Indoor Faucets

- One at a time, turn on all **cold-water faucets** in your home.
  - Let each run for **2–3 minutes**.
  - Start with the lowest level of your home and work your way up.
  - If your faucet is equipped with an aerator, please remove the aerator before turning on the water to flush this step will reduce low flow blockage issues.
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### 3. Check for Air in the Lines

- You may notice sputtering or cloudy water at first—this is normal.
  - Continue running water until the flow is steady and clear.
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### 4. Flush Toilets

- Flush each toilet **1–2 times** to clear the lines.
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### 5. Clean Faucet Aerators (If needed)

- If water pressure seems low:
    - Unscrew the faucet aerator (screen at the tip)
    - Rinse out any sediment
    - Reattach securely
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## 6. Run Appliances

After flushing faucets:

- Run your **washing machine** (empty, quick cycle if possible)
  - Run your **dishwasher** (optional but recommended)
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## 7. Restore Hot Water System

- After flushing cold water lines, run **hot water faucets** for several minutes.
  - This helps clear any air from your water heater.
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## Additional Tips

- Avoid using hot water until cold water runs clear.
  - If discoloration persists after flushing, wait 30 minutes and repeat the process.
  - If issues continue, contact the City for assistance.
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## When to Call for Help

Contact the City if you notice:

- Continued low pressure
- Persistent discoloration
- Leaks near your meter or water flowing from your meter box.

 **City of Cottondale Customer Service**  
[850-352-4361]

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## Thank You

Taking a few minutes to flush your system helps ensure the best performance from your new meter and protects your home's plumbing.