

NOTICE: Commercial Customers!

Flush Plumbing Prior to Reopening Your Commercial Facility!

Firgrove Mutual Water Company would like to issue the following notice to its commercial customers, whose plumbing systems may be at risk for water quality degradation due to low, or no, water consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic. This notice applies to drinking water plumbing inside your building, and may include health clubs, foodservice businesses, medical facilities, schools, and other large scale, complex systems.

Stagnant water within building plumbing systems can allow for the growth of harmful bacteria. For most plumbing systems, flushing the stagnant water from the system through all fixtures is the simple solution to this problem. Firgrove maintains controlled disinfectant chlorine residual in its distribution system, which is effective to inactivate harmful bacteria. Flushing stagnant water from building plumbing introduces fresh, cooler water (bacteria proliferate in warm, wet environments) with a good disinfection residual.

For more complex systems with multiple stories, water heating units and boilers, or water towers and air conditioning units, additional guidance is available from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), at this link: [Guidance on Maintaining Building Plumbing Prior to Re-opening.](#)

Similar guidance from the United States Environmental Protection Association may be referenced here: [Maintaining-Restoring Water Quality in Buildings With Low or No Use](#)

If you have a swimming pool, spa, medical pool, or other such facilities that you are re-opening, the following guidance from DOH should be referenced:

- [Guidance for Shutting Down and Reopening Water Recreation Facilities](#)
- [Shock Chlorination Guidance](#)