

 IMPORTANT: Post-Boil Advisory Water Flushing Instructions

Dear Water Customer,

As water service is restored following the recent Boil Water Advisory, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends flushing your home's plumbing system to ensure fresh, safe water is flowing from your taps. Please follow the step-by-step instructions below to protect your health and the quality of your water:

 STEP-BY-STEP FLUSHING INSTRUCTIONS

-  1 Ensure all faucets drain properly. Remove or bypass any in-home filters.
-  2 Take off aerators/screens from all faucets.
-  3 Using cold water only, turn on ALL faucets—kitchen, bathroom, utility sinks, tubs, showers, outdoor spigots, etc.:
 - Start on the lowest floor (e.g., basement).
 - Move upward, turning on all faucets on each floor.
 - At the end, water should be running from every faucet.
-  4 Let the water run clear and reach a stable temperature. If unsure, flush for at least 30 minutes. Larger homes may require more time.
-  5 Turn off faucets in reverse order, starting with the first one you turned on.
-  6 Repeat steps 3–5 using the hot water taps.
-  7 Clean and reattach the aerators.
-  8 Run a cycle on appliances (dishwasher, coffee maker, washing machine, etc.) for at least 10 minutes each.
-  9 Wash, rinse, and sanitize your ice machine and any equipment connected to water lines.
-  10 Replace filters and return equipment to service.

 Cleaning Faucet Aerators:

- Separate the parts of the aerator (screen, gasket screw-threaded housings, etc.) and place them in a small container.
- Soak pieces in vinegar or warm water.
- Scrub gently with a toothbrush.
- Rinse, reassemble, and reattach.

NOTE: Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when flushing or restoring hot water heaters.

 **Questions? We're here to help!**

Contact Ottawa County Sanitary Engineers at 419-734-6725 for assistance.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work to restore safe water service across the county.