

FLUSHING YOUR PLUMBING

AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND DAY NURSERIES
REVISED MARCH 2010

WHO SHOULD FLUSH THEIR PLUMBING?

All schools, private schools and day nurseries

HOW OFTEN SHOULD PLUMBING BE FLUSHED?

How often you flush will depend on your lead test results over the past 24 months. If all these test results are below the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard for lead, your flushing requirements can be reduced from daily to weekly.

If you do not have lead test results from at least 24 consecutive months, your flushing frequency will depend on the age of your plumbing. If the date is unknown, assume the plumbing was installed in the year the oldest part of the building's construction was completed.

Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Any part of the plumbing installed before January 1, 1990 with less than two years testing history OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lead exceedance in test results within past 24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Good lead test results in all plumbing for at least 24 consecutive months (no lead exceedances) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">All plumbing installed in 1990 or after
Daily Flushing	Weekly Flushing

HOW TO FLUSH YOUR PLUMBING

- START AND COMPLETE** flushing before your facility opens for the day or week. If the facility remains open overnight (for example, in residential schools), complete flushing as early as possible.
- USE** the tap at the end of each branch or run of pipe in plumbing that serves taps and/or water fountains commonly used to provide water for consumption by children under 18 years of age.
- FLUSH** the plumbing by running the cold water for at least five minutes at each of these end-of-the-branch taps.
- Follow the branch flushing with a **10-SECOND FLUSH** of each tap or fountain that is commonly used to provide water for consumption by children under 18 years of age.
- RECORD** the date and time of flushing, and the name of person performing flushing or verifying the operation of any automatic flushing devices that may have been used.

If automatic devices are used for flushing, verify that the devices are working properly at least once a month, or as often as recommended by the manufacturer, and record the date and the name of the person performing the verification.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Do not remove the aerator when flushing.
- If possible, bypass any filter device on the tap being flushed.
- A school or private school is considered to be open only on days when the facility is holding its programs, or providing services for children under 18 years of age.
- If a tap or fountain is primarily intended for use by the general public, flushing is not required.



For more information about drinking water visit

www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater

Disclaimer: This is a guide only and should not be relied on for compliance purposes. To be clear about your specific legal requirements refer to the text of Ontario Regulation 243/07 (Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries) and the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002. Schools, private schools and day nurseries that operate their own drinking water systems are also regulated under Ontario Regulation 170/03 (Drinking Water Systems) and have additional legal requirements.

