

REOPENING YOUR BUSINESS AFTER COVID-19? REFRESH YOUR BUILDING'S WATER SYSTEM!

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused many businesses in Michigan to shut their doors and suspend operations for an extended period of time. If your business has been empty for a few weeks or longer, remember to maintain your internal plumbing before reopening to ensure a fresh water supply for both your employees and customers!

While both our water provider, the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), and Van Buren Township maintain a high level of water quality within the community's distribution system, once that water leaves a main line and enters the pipes in individual customers' building, the responsibility rests on the building's owner or occupier.

Unused water that has been sitting in pipes for extended periods of time may appear cloudy or have an unpleasant taste or odor. Flushing the system forcibly removes rust, corrosion byproducts or particulates, and replaces the potentially degraded water with fresh and recently treated water from the local main supply. For buildings and businesses that are accustomed to seasonal or intermittent use, flushing may already be part of a regular maintenance routine. But for others that have never been continuously closed for more than a day or two, people may not be aware of the potential danger posed by stagnant water, or of the steps that need to be taken to ensure water quality.

The Van Buren Township Water & Sewer Department recommends flushing water through your fixtures to 'turn over' the unused water and flow fresh water from the water main through your building's plumbing.

Here's how to do it:

1. Turn on every fixture and run cold water until it feels cool and fresh. Fresh water from the main will feel cooler than water that has been sitting in your building's plumbing. It may take longer for fresh water to reach faucets in larger buildings.
2. Flush every toilet as well.
3. Next, run the hot water at every tap until it gets fully hot. This will get fresh water into your building's hot water lines. For this to be effective, flush hot water only after all cold taps have been flushed.
4. For larger, more complex buildings and facilities, see: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html

For any questions regarding this article, please contact the Van Buren Township Water & Sewer Department at publicservices@vanburen-mi.org or by calling **734-699-8925**.