

# Post-Lead Pipe Replacement Instructions

Village of Whitefish Bay, WI



Water pipe repairs and replacements can dislodge small particles of contaminants, including lead, which can cause health effects for all age groups. Lead particles remain in your plumbing after the lead pipe replacement. Flushing water through your pipes is an effective approach to lowering lead exposure. For more information about the health effects of lead, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/prevention/drinking-water.html>. Follow the instructions listed below to flush remaining lead particles out of your pipes.

## Immediately after a new pipe is installed:

1. Dispose of any ice made from tap water, and turn off ice makers.
2. Remove any filters, screens, or aerators from all faucets in the house; pliers may be needed for screen removal. Soak screens and aerators in vinegar.
3. Starting with the lowest level of the house, turn the cold water on to maximum flow for all faucets. The faucet must be fully open to flush the particles out with the water. Verify that the water is going down the drain.
4. Continue turning on the cold water for all faucets in the house, including bathtubs and laundry room sinks, moving up to the higher levels of the house as you go.
5. Allow the water to flush through the system for ten minutes. After ten minutes have passed, turn off all faucets in the house. Start on the upper floors and move to lower floors as you go.
6. Remove all screens or aerators from vinegar and screw back onto faucet.

## 30 Days after new pipe installation:

- Repeat the steps listed above once per week.
- To minimize lead exposure, filter your cold tap water for all drinking and cooking purposes. This includes water used for making ice, beverages, and infant formula. Replace filter cartridges according to manufacturer's instructions; never use a filter longer than recommended. Cold water should be flushed for five minutes prior to filtering if you have not used the water for a few hours.
- If not using a filter, run cold water through faucets for three minutes prior to drinking or cooking.
- Lead test kits are available at Village Hall (5300 N. Marlborough Dr.). The cost is \$36 to receive the lab results.
- More information regarding lead service line replacement can be found at: <https://www.wfbvillage.gov/439/Lead-Service-Line-Replacement-Project>