



## A FEW WATER QUALITY TIPS FOR REOPENING YOUR BUSINESS

If your business has been closed for a while and the water has been just setting in the plumbing fixtures, the water begins to smell and taste like the pipes it has been confined to. Even bottled water starts to taste like the bottle if you do not use it in a timely manner. Here are a few tips to help you quickly improve the quality and safety of your water.

- Flushing the lines is the simplest and most efficient way. Open a faucet or two, as far away from where your water enters the facility. If your water meter is in front of the business, then flush the old water out and new water in from the front to the back of the store. You will be surprised how quickly this happens. 100 feet of one-inch water line only holds 4 gallons of water.
- It will take a little longer to flush your hot water lines. Be sure that your water heater has been properly maintained and the temperature is set correct. Determine if your manufacturer recommends draining the water heater after a prolonged period of disuse. Ensure that all maintenance activities are carried out according to the manufacturer's instructions or by professionals. If flushing is sufficient, then be sure the temperature is at least 120 degrees. Bacteria and fungus can grow more easily in warm water (*between 77°F and 108°F*). Flush your hot water lines with a combination of hot water and the chlorine residual that is in the city's water. If you have a 30-gallon water heater, you will obviously need to flush more than 30 gallons to completely replace all the water in the system. Flush hot water through all points of use.
- Ensure that all hot tubs/spas are safe for use. Check for existing guidelines from your local or state regulatory agency before use. Be sure they are free of visible slime or biofilm before filling with water. Perform a hot tub/spa disinfection procedure before use.
- Ensure that cooling towers are clean and well-maintained per manufacturers guidelines and industries best practices for start-up and shut-down procedures.
- Make sure that safety equipment including fire sprinkler systems, eye wash stations and safety showers are clean and well-maintained.
- Clean all decorative water features, such as fountains. Follow all recommended manufacturer guidelines for cleaning. Be sure the water features are free of visible slime or biofilm. After the water feature has been re-filled, measure disinfectant levels to ensure that the water is safe for use.

Stagnant, or standing water can lead to low or undetectable levels of disinfectant, such as chlorine. Not having sufficient disinfectant could increase the risk for growth and spread of biofilm associated bacteria. Please ensure that your water system is safe to use after a prolonged shutdown to minimize the risk of diseases associated with water. Please email [drylant@cityofdenison.com](mailto:drylant@cityofdenison.com) with any questions you may have.