

# Whole House Flushing Instructions



## STEP 1

Flush the water heater to remove sand, calcium, rust or color buildup by attaching a water hose to the hose bib located at the base of the heater and turn the hose bib on to a strong flow. **CAUTION!** Some types of drain valves look like a large round knob with a threaded hose fitting in the middle. Care should be used when flushing this type as you can completely unscrew the valve if you open it too much. Remember you are flushing and not draining the water heater, so don't turn off the water supply on top of the water heater or the pilot light or unplug an electric heater while flushing. Be sure to run the end of the hose outside of the house to an area where the hot water will not injure anyone or damage anything. Let water run for about ten to fifteen minutes then check for sediment or color by filling a large bucket or pot and allow the water to settle out for a few minutes. Slowly pour off the water until only a very small amount is left. If you see sediment or if the water is cloudy continue flushing and check every five minutes or so until acceptable.

## STEP 2

Take off the aeration screens from the sinks in the kitchen, bathroom, utility sink and any other faucets as well as shower heads. Disassemble and clean out any debris. For heavy calcium buildup on aerators and showerheads, soak in a strong vinegar solution or use a commercial descaler like Lime-Away or C.L.R.

## STEP 3

Starting at the faucets and showers closest to the water heaters, open the hot water at full flow and flush the lines for several minutes. Because the aerators are removed, there could be considerable water splashing so a towel is advised to cover the sink and prevent a water mess. After flushing the hot water side, turn on the cold water and flush for several minutes at full flow. For those sinks and showers that use a single handle mixing type of valve, it's best to switch from the hot water to the cold water side without stopping the water flow. Completely flush and turn off each faucet before moving to the next one. Reinstall the aerators and shower heads as you go.

## STEP 4

To clean out the hot water side of the washing machine, you will need to pull the machine away from the wall. Completely remove the hot water hose from the wall faucet and the back of the washing machine. There is a coarse mesh screen in the end of the hose that connects to the wall faucet that needs to be cleaned out. Where the hose connects to the back of the washing machine, there is a finer mesh screen that also needs to be cleaned out. Q-Tips and a water spray bottle work good for this. While you are back there, it is also a good idea to check the cold water side of things just to make sure everything is clean. Using a regular garden hose, attach it to the wall faucet and flush the line for several minutes at full flow. You can now reassemble the washing machine lines, turn on the valves and put the washer back in place. A similar issue may exist for automatic dishwashers if they take a very long time to fill and run but flushing that water line is generally beyond most homeowners. A qualified handyman or service technician may be your best bet.

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