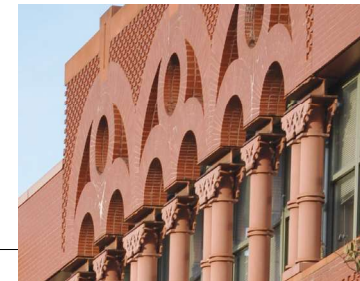


# Ensuring Water Quality in COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS



## TIPS TO MINIMIZE CHANGES IN WATER QUALITY AND PREVENT CONTAMINATION:

### Flushing building water systems after periods of minimal or no water usage:



- Commercial buildings are often vacant during weekends and holidays, and experience periods of water stagnation – minimal or no water usage.
- Water stagnation may cause a reduction in disinfection protection and cause increased bacterial growth in the building pipes.
- Locate the taps on each floor that are furthest from the floor’s water service riser and flush the cold water taps for 10 minutes.
- Flush each fountain for one minute or install fountains with automatic flushing devices.

### Routinely change water fountain filters

- Water filters that are not routinely changed can accumulate impurities and promote bacterial growth.
- Replace water fountain filters according to the manufacturer’s instructions.



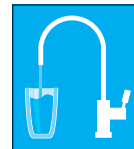
### Clean and replace faucet aerators

- Particles can collect in the aerator screen located at the tip of faucets.
- Routinely remove and clean aerators.
- Replace aerators every year.
- Install low-flow aerators to conserve water.



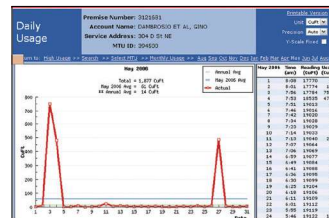
### Install lead-free plumbing fixtures

- Lead-free plumbing can minimize lead from entering the building’s drinking water system.
- Install fixtures and fittings that contain 0.25 percent lead or less.
- Until 2014, brass faucets and fittings sold in the United States that are labeled “lead free” can contain up to eight percent lead.



### Monitor water usage

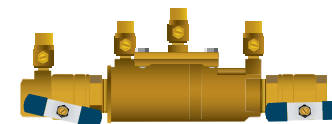
- Monitoring water usage can assist building owners in identifying plumbing leaks.
- High Usage Notification Alerts (HUNA) notify customers when a building’s water usage is higher than normal.
- Building owners can sign up multiple contacts to receive alerts via phone, email and text.
- Sign up for HUNA alerts by visiting [dcwater.com/customer-care](http://dcwater.com/customer-care) or call 202-354-3600.
- Install water efficient fixtures labeled as ‘WaterSense’ to conserve water and reduce water bills.



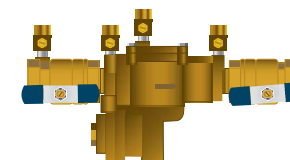
### Annually inspect and test backflow prevention assemblies

- Commercial building owners are required to install backflow prevention assemblies.
- Backflow prevention assemblies prevent the reverse flow of water from the building into the public water system.
- Certified testers are required to annually inspect backflow prevention assemblies and submit reports to the DC Water Cross Connection Program.

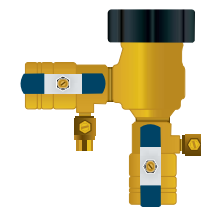
### Common Backflow Prevention Assemblies



dcva (Double Check Valve Assembly)



rpva (Reduced Pressure Valve Assembly)



pvb (Pressure Vacuum Breaker)