



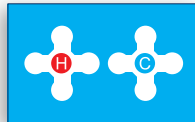
What is the difference between the distribution system and a building pipe system?

A major difference between the distribution system and a building pipe system is the flow of water moving inside the pipes. Within the distribution system, the water moves at a high rate because water service is in continuous demand from multiple buildings. However, once the water leaves the main in the street and enters the building pipe system, the flow of water slows and is dependent on individual building water usage. Generally, as water usage decreases, the quality of water also decreases.

A few tips to minimize changes in water quality and prevent contamination:

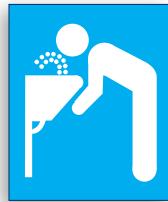
Flush building system lines after periods of limited or no water usage

- Commercial buildings are often vacant during weekends and holidays and experience periods of water stagnation—limited or no water usage.
- Water stagnation may cause a reduction in disinfection protection and can lead to increased bacterial growth.
- Following periods of stagnation, locate the tap on each floor that is furthest from the floor's water service riser and flush the tap for ten minutes.
- Flush each fountain/tap for one minute or install fountains with automatic flushing devices.



Change water fountain filters regularly

- Most water fountains have filters to remove impurities from the building drinking water system.
- Filters that are not routinely changed can accumulate impurities and promote bacterial growth.
- Change water fountain filters regularly as specified by the manufacturer.



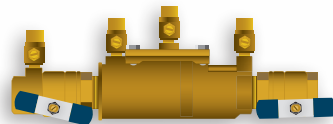
Clean and replace faucet aerators

- Routinely remove faucet aerators and clean screens of debris.
- Install low-flow aerators to conserve water.

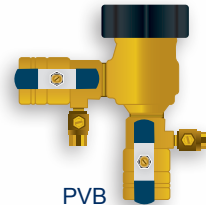


Inspect and test backflow prevention assemblies annually

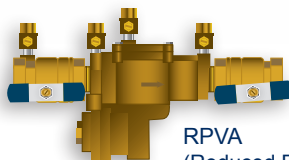
- Many commercial buildings utilize water treatment chemicals to protect sensitive building pipes and heating/cooling equipment.
- To prevent the reverse flow of these chemicals and protect the drinking water system from contamination, property owners are required to install backflow prevention assemblies.
- To ensure these backflow prevention assemblies are operating correctly, certified testers are required to inspect and test annually and submit reports to the DC WASA Cross-Connection Program.



DCVA (Double Check Valve Assembly)



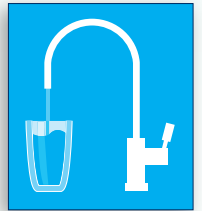
PVB (Pressure Vacuum Breaker)



RPVA (Reduced Pressure Valve Assembly)

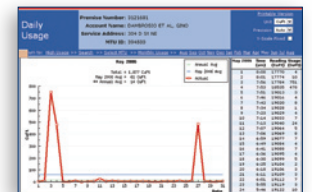
Install lead-free and water-efficient plumbing fixtures

- Lead-free fixtures prevent lead from entering the building's drinking water system.
- Water-efficient fixtures, labeled as 'WaterSense', conserve water and can reduce water bills.
- Look for 'lead-free' and 'WaterSense' labels when purchasing new plumbing fixtures.

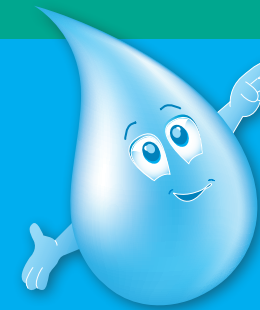


Monitor water use

- Monitoring water usage is important for building owners, as leaks in toilets, fixtures and pipes can increase customer bills.
- DC WASA's High Usage Notification Alert (HUNA) Program alerts customers via telephone or e-mail if there is an unusually high increase in water use. (This could be an undetected leak or major plumbing problem.)
- Sign up for HUNA alerts by visiting www.dcwasa.com/customercare or call 202-354-3600.



ENSURING WATER QUALITY



in COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

The DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC WASA) delivers drinking water to District of Columbia residences and businesses through an underground pipe distribution system. When water leaves the distribution system and enters building pipes, water quality can change. This is dependent on the amount of water usage and the building pipe construction. To maintain high water quality in building pipe systems, DC WASA recommends a few tips for commercial buildings.

Where can I find more information?

To obtain information regarding backflow prevention, visit the DC WASA Cross-Connections site at www.dcwasa.com/cc or contact the DC WASA Water Quality Division at **202-612-3440** or waterquality@dcwasa.com.

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