



WATER QUALITY GUIDANCE FOR BUILDINGS VACATED FOR EXTENDED PERIODS

South Blount Utility urges customers to follow recommended procedures when reopening buildings that have been vacant for an extended period of time. Measures to combat COVID-19 statewide have resulted in many buildings – such as restaurants, offices, factories and hotels – to be unoccupied for many weeks. Extended building vacancies have the potential to impact drinking water quality within the premises due to non-use.

When buildings become vacant for extended periods, the water within the pipes becomes stagnant, resulting in deteriorated water quality. When water isn't flowing, organisms and chemicals have the potential to buildup to undesired levels, particularly in older buildings. Just like food that sits in a refrigerator for too long goes bad, water that sits in a building's pipes for too long has the capacity to make people sick. When water use begins in a building after extended periods of non-use, it is important to address the stagnant water in the buildings plumbing to ensure safe drinking water quality is provided.

The CDC has published [Guidance for Building Water Systems](#) to help minimize the risk of diseases associated with water that has likely become stagnant in many buildings. The guidance recommends an eight-step process before opening a building, which includes flushing the water system and maintaining the water system.

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