

Introduction

Sometimes it is necessary to drain the entire [plumbing](#) system in your home. Some of the most common reasons to do this include:

- Fixing a water hammer problem;
- Seasonal winter shut down of a property;
- Major [plumbing repair](#).

Seasonal shut down of properties that are not used year round includes a checklist of many items to prepare for winter and having the [plumbing](#) system evacuated of all water is an essential task.

If you have a water hammer problem and older style air chambers, then you need to learn how to drain the system so that air can refill the air chamber. Although draining the system will solve (or greatly reduce) your water hammer problem, the problem will come back as the water system is used. It may be a few months or it may be a year, but you'll have to do this again.

Let's take a look at how to easily drain and then recharge your home's [plumbing system](#).

Draining the [Plumbing](#) System

To drain the plumbing system proceed as follows:

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- Shut off the main water valve at the water meter
- Starting at the top floor, open all the sink faucets;
- Go to the basement or the lowest level in your home and open the faucet in your laundry tub and let all the water from the above floors drain out;
- Now go back upstairs or to the highest level in the home and open the tub/shower faucets;
- Now go flush all the toilets;
- Leave the faucets in an open position;
- There should be no water coming out of any faucets except a possible slight residual drip from the lowest faucet as any remaining water in the pipes dribbles out.
- That's it, you are done. Charging the Plumbing System with Water

To activate the plumbing system and refill it with water proceed as follows:

- Close the basement faucet or lowest level faucet in the house;
- Now close all the upper faucets. Closing the faucets allows air remain in the pipes to recharge the air chambers you may have in your home's plumbing system;
- Go back and open the main water valve to let the water back into your pipes;
- Now, one by one, starting with the highest level faucets, turn on the faucets and let the air/water sputter out until only clear water flows from the faucet.
- You may see discoloured water come out at first, this is normal.
- Open the shower faucets;
- Flush the toilets
- Once the water is running clear, turn off the faucets starting at the highest floor level and work your way down through the house. You may have an occasional sputter the next time you use a faucet but any remaining air will quickly be purged.

If you need any help contact the experts

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