



Environmental Health and Instructional Safety
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Disinfection Procedure for Water Distribution Pipelines

Drinking water contamination can be prevented by hydrostatic testing and disinfection of potable water distribution pipelines before connecting them to the distribution system. Therefore, new or modified underground pipelines should remain isolated from the system until completion of the mandatory safety precautions listed below:

1. Complete hydrostatic testing by a licensed independent subcontractor
2. Disinfect pipelines using methods of AWWA C651-92¹
3. Assess residual chlorine concentrations
4. Confirm that residual chlorine concentrations do not exceed those of the system
5. Use a State accredited² laboratory to collect bacteriological samples
6. Collect bacteriological samples using *Standard Methods*³
7. Forward bacteriological sample results to EHIS⁴ for review and approval
8. EHIS can approve pipelines for reconnection only after ensuring that their total coliforms = 0 and that their heterotrophic plate counts fall below 500 cfu⁵/ml
9. Flush the distribution system with potable water after connecting pipelines

EHIS will provide technical guidance, approve pipeline connections to the system, and respond to requests for drinking water assessments. And, any pipeline work should include a thorough system flushing to remove contaminants such as adhesives and fluxes.

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¹ American Water Works Association

² California Department of Health Services Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP)

³ *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, American Public Health Association

⁴ Environmental Health and Instructional Safety, CSUF

⁵ Colony Forming Units