

# SIX Common Water Safety Mistakes When Re-Opening Your Building & HOW To Avoid Them!



## **Mistake #1 – Mixing the Incorrect Disinfectants Before Knowing Which Primary Chemical Is Actually Needed**

There are several factors that make this an important consideration as you reopen your building following a COVID-19 closure. Knowing the right mixture, especially with the right primary chemical, is needed to address your water disinfection needs.



## **Mistake #4 – Overlooking Water Features & Other Common Water Systems**

Water safety is required for all building systems that rely on water. Your water safety team must take into consideration common water systems. Often overlooked systems can include decorative fountains, ice machines, sprinklers, safety equipment, and other end-use water devices.



## **Mistake #2 – Setting Water Heater Temperatures Too Low**

Many facilities managers turn down the temperature of water heaters to save energy. *Legionella* thrives within a temperature range of 77°F-108°F. Temperature range can cause additional problems in situations when a building is shut down due to COVID-19 closures.



## **Mistake #5 – Assuming Flushing Pipes & Drains is Enough**

Removing dead water and replacing it with live water is important. However, other considerations related to flushing, like the presence of biofilms, need to be addressed to ensure water is safe. If a waterborne pathogen like *Legionella* is present within biofilms on pipe walls or on valves, fixtures, and fittings, flushing will not remove it.



## **Mistake #3 – Failing to Replace Water Filters**

Filtration systems can provide a barrier to bacteria, viruses, and cysts. Filter replacement schedules for ice machines, sinks, and shower heads, etc need to be followed. Waterborne pathogens are on the rise due to a lack of proper biofilm abatement and filtration.



## **Mistake #6 – Not Including Your Entire Water Safety Group**

Reopening a building after a COVID-19 closure goes beyond simple maintenance. Often testing and documentation is required. Your water safety team should include team members beyond facilities maintenance as it affects the overall and safety of your employees, visitors, and tenants.





# BONUS

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### **Mistake #7 – Lacking System Controls for Remote Monitoring**

With decreasing workforces and growing need for real-time monitoring of multiple systems a remote monitoring system can provide a dashboard to facilities managers with at-a-glance readings of systems and automated alerts when systems are out of set control-ranges.



### **Mistake #8– Undertraining Staff on Water Safety Compliance**

In the best of times it is difficult to keep staff up-to-date on water safety compliance and regulations. Compliance regulations and guidelines could change as more is learned about COVID-19 and how it spreads. Your G-C Water Safety Group keeps current on the latest information and alerts regarding Water Safety and compliance from the CDC and ASHRAE and can offer training and support to your staff.



### **Mistake #9 – Underestimating Chemical Reserves**

The COVID-19 pandemic caused disruptions in the supply chain and its ripple effects touched many industries. The vulnerability of the supply chain highlights how keeping an adequate inventory of chemicals is to critical water systems. G-C Experts will assess your need according to your treatment goals and can help you plan for possible disruptions for your mission critical water systems.



### **Mistake #10 – Believing Water Safety Preparedness is a One-Time Event**

Once you've created a Water Safety Program, a disinfection plan, set optimal ranges for you building's water systems, updated your training records, and outlined guidelines and procedures for testing, monitoring, and maintenance it could all change. As a trusted partner we can help you assess, reprioritize, and readjust treatment goals during a crisis. Every G-C Representative is backed by a team of experts, an ELAP Certified in-house lab, and a company with over 100 years of water treatment expertise.

## Schedule a Complimentary On-Site Consultation

Serious consequences can arise when not properly flushing and cleaning your water systems as you reopen your building. Get the water safety help you need by scheduling a complimentary on-site consultations with a Garratt-Callahan Water Treatment expert.

Visit <https://garrattcallahan.com/contact/> or Call (650) 729-9722.

Discover more at [www.garrattcallahan.com](http://www.garrattcallahan.com)

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