

# WPN Guide: Valve Exercising

A general guide for exercising valves in potable water distribution systems. Exercising cleans debris from valve gates and slides. Compacted debris can impede the movement of the gate or slide.

## Preparation

Exercising of valves will cause debris to be stirred up in the water. Notify customers in the area of the valve exercising activity, to reduce water discoloration complaints.

## Basic Procedure

1. Determine if the valve is normally open or closed and proceed accordingly. The following instructions assume the valve is open.
2. Begin with a steady amount of torque in the direction necessary to close the valve for 5 - 10 rotations. Do not use a cheater bar or over torque the valve. This could result in the fracture of the valve stem. Steadily working the valve in both directions will dislodge debris that has built up.
3. Reverse the rotation, now in the direction to open, for 2 to 3 rotations.
4. Then rotate in the close direction for 5 to 10 rotations.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until the valve is fully closed.
6. Once fully closed, open the valve a couple of turns to flush away debris.
7. Fully open the valve.

## Measurements and Observations

**Integrity:** Add a note to record any issues, such as difficulty rotating, excessive torque required, or corrosion.

**Leak Sounds:** Check for visible / audible indications of leaks at the valve.

**Notes:** Add a note to record any other items of interest, such as street access, physical condition of the valve chamber, and so on.