



Hydrant Flushing

The water department is responsible for flushing dead-end water mains every month. To do this fire hydrants that are located at the end of all dead-end mains are used. Flushing is an important component to ensure the quality of water in the city.

Hydrant flushing serves the following purposes:

- Flushes sediments from mainline pipes (which enhances water quality)
- Verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and valves
- Checks for closed valves and weak flows in the water mains
- Verifies ample flow for fire fighting

Prior to flushing, notices will be placed on barricades at intersections to inform residents of flushing in their neighborhoods.

During hydrant flushing:

- There may be a temporary drop in water pressure at this time.
- Water may be rusty or cloudy. Discolored water is not harmful and will clear up in a few hours.
- Fill a bottle with water and store it in the refrigerator to use for drinking or cooking.
- Do not wash white laundry during this period (wait until cold AND hot water are clear before laundering whites).

Hydrant Flushing Frequently Asked Questions:

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN THE CITY CREWS ARE FLUSHING HYDRANTS IN MY AREA?

If you see a crew flushing a hydrant or the fire department on your street, avoid running tap water and using the washing machine or the dishwasher until the flushing is completed.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER HYDRANT FLUSHING?

If tap water is used during flushing, it could come out full of sediment that causes discoloration. If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes. After waiting, check the clarity by running cold water for a few minutes allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. If the water is clear it's OK to use. If not, wait a few more minutes and check again. In some cases, there may be slight discoloration for a few hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect the taste or water quality.

Avoid washing laundry during scheduled flushing times. Wait until the water runs clear at the tap, then wash a load of dark clothes first. Hot water tanks can hold discolored water for some time after the cold water runs clear. If pressure or volume seems low, check your faucet screens for trapped particles.

WHY DOES MY WATER LOOK FUNNY AFTER HYDRANT FLUSHING?

When a hydrant is opened, there will be temporary incidences of discolored water while fine sediment particles are flushed out. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water. Allow a few hours for discoloration to dissipate. To verify water is clear, run your cold-water tap for a few minutes.