

WHY DOES THE TOWN FLUSH HYDRANTS?



You may notice Water Department crews working at hydrants and see water running down the street. Your first thought may be that we are ignoring our own philosophy of conserving water. We flush water lines using hydrants, which is an important preventive maintenance activity. Although it may appear to waste water, the process is part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system allowing us to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our customers.

As a result of the line flushing process, residents in the immediate

vicinity of the work may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and air that does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your home by running your cold water faucets in your home a few minutes. We recommend using the tub or outside faucet.

The same philosophy of water line preventive maintenance is one that you should use in your own home to ensure the quality of water inside your home. Your homes water heater should be drained and flushed on a regular basis, according to manufacturer's recommendations, to keep it working effectively and efficiently.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why does the water system need to be routinely flushed?

A: The Towns water distribution system is a complex network of pipes and storage tanks where sediment and deposits may naturally accumulate over time. If not removed, these materials may cause water quality deterioration, taste and odor problems, or discoloration of the water. Water may also stagnate in lesser used parts of the distribution system. This can result in degraded water quality.

Q: When does flushing occur?

A: Flushing takes place twice per year (Fall and Spring) for approximately 6 to 8 weeks. Flushing crews will be working during the day between 9:00AM through 3:00PM and in the evening from 7:00PM through 11:00PM Monday through Thursdays and 9:00AM through 12:00PM on Fridays.

Q: What should I do when I see town crews flushing hydrants in my area?

A: If you see town crew flushing hydrants, you may want to delay any laundry washing until the crew is finished and you have checked your water for discoloration.

Q: What should I do after the flushing?

A: If the tap water is used during flushing, it could come out full of sediment and discoloration. If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes. After waiting, check the clarity by running the COLD water for a few minutes allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. If not, wait a few more minutes and check again. We recommend using the tub or outside faucet to clear the line. In some cases, you may experience slight discoloration for a few hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect the taste or water quality.