

Q: What is the purpose of fire hydrant flushing?

A: Routine “flushing” of fire hydrants is an important preventative maintenance activity that helps to insure the integrity of the water system and to provide the highest quality water to our customers. More specifically, hydrant flushing serves the following purposes:

- During the winter, water sits at dead ends and cul-de-sac, growing stale and stagnated. Hydrants are flushed to bring water quality back up to what it should be for the summer;
- Flushes sediments from water main pipes, thus enhancing water quality;
- Verifies that fire hydrants and valves are working properly and that ample water flow is available for firefighting needs;
- Aids in determining weaknesses in water pipes and related fittings and valves.

Q: Will flushing affect my water service?

A: While a loss of water pressure is common, the process doesn't typically interrupt water service. We do recommend waiting until after 5 pm before running laundry, after you have confirmed your water is clear to avoid staining your clothes.

Q: What should I do after the flushing?

A: If the tap water is used during or shortly after 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 for clarity by running 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 a 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.

Q: What should I do if my water pressure or volume seems low after flushing?

A: Check your faucet and washer screens for trapped debris. We recommend using the tub or outside faucet.

Q: What is the silt in the water system after flushing?

A: Water contains minerals and these minerals react with the inside of the pipe to produce the by-product. This chemical reaction between the pipe and water is normal and natural process. This process can occur on the inside of the pipe and prevent adequate volume of water flow. The flushing process removes much of this by-product.