

FLUSHING MAINLINE HYDRANTS FAQ

What is flushing?

The flushing process is when water is moved through the water mains at a high velocity so that a scouring action is created. The water is discharged through the fire hydrants.

Why are we flushing?

The water mains are sized to provide for an adequate flow of water for fire protection. The use of water for every day life does not allow enough water to move through the mains to stop minerals from settling out in the pipe. The minerals settling out in the pipe can result in buildup that can cause restriction in flow that can corrode the pipe and cause water color problems.

When do we flush?

The water utility flushes the system twice year, historically in May and October. The flushing is done at that time because they are low water usage months.

How will I be affected?

Dates and location of flushing will be posted in the local newspaper and on the City of Cambridge website. Flushing will normally occur between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., weekdays. Your water pressure will fluctuate while crews are flushing in your area but water service should not be interrupted. If the water pressure at your residence decreases for a long period of time after we have flushed, please contact the Water Utility Department.

What should I do if I am experiencing discolored water?

If the water has a reddish, yellow or brown tint or if there are black particles present, do not be alarmed. The tint or particles result from Iron and Manganese that is in the water. The two minerals are naturally occurring and are not harmful.

It is recommended that you do not wash clothes on the day that flushing occurs in your neighborhood. If the water appears discolored, we recommend that you give it a few hours to clear up then run your cold water faucet for a few minutes to make sure that the water has cleared. If the water does not clear within a few hours, please notify the Water Utility at 763-689-1800.