

Hydrant Flushing and Testing

You may notice crews working at fire hydrants and see water running down the street. Although it may appear to waste water, the process is a routine and necessary element of maintaining the integrity of our water system and allowing us to deliver the highest quality water 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. The discoloration consists of mineral deposits and iron oxide that has built up in the distribution system. If you experience discoloration, you should flush your system by allowing every water outlet, including the washing machine, to run for fifteen minutes or until clear.

The City requests your cooperation as we perform this work. Please drive carefully while in the vicinity of the workers and take caution when walking in areas that may be saturated.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

A: It allows the removal of accumulated deposits of iron and other sediments in the system and allows us to document the functionality of the hydrant. While flushing the hydrant crews record the flow, static, and residual pressures. This is important information that allows us to maintain the best insurance rating possible for fire protection and performance.

Q: When does flushing normally occur?

A: Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. weekdays.

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

A: Clean your faucet screens for trapped mineral sediments. Your water pressure will drop during the flushing process but will recover as soon as the flushing is completed in your neighborhood.

Q: Is it okay to wash laundry when water is discolored?

A: No. Please run all water outlets, including the washing machine with cold water, for approximately 15 minutes or until water clears. If your water is not cleared within 24 hours please contact City Hall at 770-358-0181 weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. After hour calls should be to the Barnesville Fire Department at 770-358-1246.