

FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING/WATER DISCOLORATION – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

[Fire hydrant flushing](#) is necessary to ensure that adequate flow and pressure is available and removes sediment from the distribution pipes to maintain water clarity and quality.

How does hydrant flushing work?

Running hydrants will increase water flow through the system. This increase in flow stirs up any minerals and deposits in the pipes and clears them out.

When does hydrant flushing occur?

PWSA performs fire hydrant flushing as part of its regular, annual distribution optimization program to ensure the best water quality for customers. Flushing also occurs to clear out pipes after water main repairs.

Can I still use water during the flushing process?

Flushing will not interrupt your water service; however, it is common to see a drop in water pressure while crews are doing work in your area. If pressure seems low after flushing is finished, check your faucet for trapped particles.

Is my water safe to drink after hydrants have been flushed in my area?

Water can become discolored after flushing; however, it is safe to drink. If this happens, run your cold water tap for a few minutes until the water is clear. If it is not clear the first time, wait a few minutes and repeat this process.

Avoid washing clothes until the water clears. If your laundry does become stained, do not put it in the dryer. Rewash clothes with detergent and a rust removing agent. Rust remover can also remove stained fixtures.

What if discoloration persists after flushing?

Discoloration may linger for a few hours. Discoloration only affects the appearance of the water, but does not affect water quality. There are no health concerns associated with discolored water from hydrant flushing. If you have any concerns; however, PWSA will test your water for free. Please call the PWSA Lab at 412-782-7552 or 412-782-7554 between 7:30 am and 4 pm, Monday - Friday.

I see my local fire department flushing hydrants as well – does PWSA coordinate with them?

PWSA does coordinate with local fire departments to avoid performing a hydrant flush on a hydrant that has recently been inspected by a local fire house.

**Any customer who needs additional information should call:
PWSA Emergency Dispatch 24/7 at 412.255.2423**