

FAQ: FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING

Why does the Village perform hydrant flushing?

Hydrant flushing is the quick release of water from fire hydrants. It's a controlled procedure that is vital to the general maintenance of the Village's water distribution system. It ensures adequate water flow is available to fire fighters, residents and businesses. It also improves water quality by clearing iron and other mineral deposits from the water mains and ensures the hydrants are in good working condition.

What are the effects of hydrant flushing?

Hydrant flushing helps ensure water quality and helps avoid random bouts of rusty water if there is a high demand for water, caused by a major firefighting effort or water main break.

During the flushing of a hydrant, some customers may notice reduced water pressure and flow.

Why is my water rust/tea-colored from the hydrant flushing? Is the water safe?

Sometimes hydrant flushing can make the water temporarily appear rust-colored because the iron and other mineral deposits in the water mains get stirred up. There is no health hazard associated with discolored water. Water is safe to use and consume during hydrant flushing, however it may stain laundry. We recommend not running hot water until the water runs clear through the cold tap.

Does the Village test the water regularly? Is the testing done at various sites?

The Village tests the water both leaving the water plant and throughout the water system regularly, following Provincial protocols. Many tests are also completed around the clock during the water treatment process.

I live on the west side and the Village is flushing hydrants on the east side. How come my water is discolored?

Sometimes residents who live beyond the limits of the area where hydrant flushing is currently being performed, may notice rust-colored water. This can occur because the opening of a hydrant can cause water run in the opposite direction than normal.

How come my water is discolored, but my neighbor didn't notice my discoloration?

If the water inside a home or business is turned on while hydrant flushing is going on, discolored water may enter your plumbing. If a neighbor did not use water during the day, they most likely will not notice any discoloration.

My water is discolored. What should I do?

Wait until flushing has subsided in your area then run a cold water tap until the water runs clear.

Remember rust colored water is safe, but it may stain laundry. If this happens, keep clothes wet and treat them with stain remover.

If you notice the water flushing crew is near your property, refrain from using water, and delay using the hot water as much as possible.

How often is hydrant flushing done?

Hydrant flushing is performed annually in the spring or fall. The work is generally done during regular operating hours from 9 am – 5 pm.