



Water Resources Division Hydrant Flushing Program

Hydrant Flushing

What is it and why do we do it?

Annual or semiannual flushing of water mains, via the fire hydrants, is a standard practice in the water industry and is necessary to maintain the integrity of our water system.

It serves the following purposes:

- Improves water quality at the tap
- Verifies hydrants are in good working order
- Removes pipe tuberculation (buildup common in iron pipes that can reduce the ability to transmit water)
- Removes naturally occurring sediment that accumulates in the lines



Hydrant Flushing FAQ's

Q: What will I experience during hydrant flushing?

A: While we are in your area you may experience a drop in water pressure or discoloration. A property closer to several hydrants may see a greater degree of this. The discoloration is normal and is due to the naturally occurring minerals and sediments that break off and dissolve during the flushing.

Q: Can I use the water during flushing?

A: Yes! Although the water is safe, it is a personal choice whether you would like to drink it. The water may have a taste or texture to which you are not accustomed. We also recommend not doing any light or white colored laundry while the water is discolored. Once we have left your area, running the cold water in either your kitchen or bathroom tap for 10-15 minutes will help improve the discoloration.

Q: Was the public informed?

A: Absolutely! A notice was printed on the water bills, we sent a public service announcement to all local media, we posted on Front Porch Forum and our Facebook page. We even tweeted! That information, along with our daily flushing schedule and an interactive hydrant map, can be found at www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/hydrants.

Q: Wait! I have more questions!

A: The Water Resources Division is here for you 24/7 at 863-4501 or we can be reached during business hours by email at water-resources@burlingtonvt.gov.