

Auburn Water District's Hydrant Flushing Program

Each year the Auburn Water District flushes the water mains. We do this by running water through the fire hydrants for the time it takes to clear the lines leading to the hydrant; anywhere from a few minutes to an hour and a half. Hydrant flushing is part of a routine maintenance program so that we continue to deliver the highest quality water to our customers. This year, we plan an extensive flushing in the spring and a lesser flushing for the fall. We begin in the center of our service area and work our way to the outer areas of the water distribution system.

As a result of the water line flushing process, nearby residents may experience temporary discoloration of their water; primarily from harmless sediment and air that does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience water discoloration after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your home by running all water faucets for a few minutes. Air in the lines may cause a temporary spitting or gurgling in your pipes- again, just run your water for a few moments to clear them. If the water does not clear after you've run the water, please contact us for assistance. (Call the office at 207-784-6469)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

A: The water distribution system is a complex network of pipes and storage reservoirs where sediment or deposits may naturally accumulate over time. If not removed, these materials could cause water quality deterioration, taste and odor problems, or discoloration of the water.

Water may also stagnate in lesser used parts of the distribution system, resulting in degraded water quality.

Q. When does flushing normal occur?

A. Normally, flushing takes place for approximately one month during early spring, and again for a lesser time in the fall. This year, we began flushing in mid-April.

Q. What should I do when I see AWSO crews flushing hydrants in my area?

A. If you see a crew flushing hydrants, PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY.

Q. What should I do after the flushing?

A. If you notice discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes. Then, check the clarity by running cold water for a few minutes allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. If not, wait a few more minutes and check again. In some cases, you may experience slight discoloration for a few hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect the taste or water quality.

Q. What is the silt in the water system after flushing?

A. Water contains minerals and these minerals react with the inside of the pipe to produce the sediment. This chemical reaction between the pipe and water is a normal and natural process. This process can occur on the inside of the pipe and prevent an adequate volume of water flow. The flushing process removes much of this material.

Q. What should I do if my water pressure or volume seems low after flushing?

A. Check your faucet and washer screens for trapped debris.

Q. Why does the water look funny after hydrant flushing?

A. When a hydrant is opened, there will always be a few cases of discolored water containing fine sediment particles. There is no health hazard associated with discolored water.

If the discoloration persists for more than twenty-four (24) hours, please contact our office at 207-784-6469.