

## Tips for Customers

- ★ Avoid running your tap water and using your washing machine or dishwasher if you see an operator flushing a fire hydrant on your street.
- ★ If you notice discolored water, simply shut the water off and wait several minutes or until you see that flushing is no longer occurring on your street. After waiting, run your **cold water** from the bathtub or outside faucet until the water runs clear. This normally takes 15-20 minutes but can vary depending on how much of the discolored water entered the homes internal plumbing.
- ★ Once the cold water is running clear, you can resume normal use.
- ★ If water pressure or volume seems low, check the faucet screens for trapped particles.

From traffic signals to wastewater treatment plants, the Public Works Department provides leadership in preparing, building and maintaining the infrastructure that provides for our community's needs today and for the generations of tomorrow.

### Contact Us

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## WATER MAIN FLUSHING

*What it is and why  
it's important for  
Marysville's water supply*



## What is water main flushing?

Water main flushing moves water systematically through sections of a drinking water system, creating a scouring action to clean the water line. The increased flow rate scours the water pipe's inner walls and helps to remove scale and build-up that collects in all piping systems.

This process is critical to the overall maintenance of a distribution system and is one of the most important practices carried out by public drinking water systems to maintain high water quality and improve the carrying capacity of pipes.

## Why is water main flushing important?

Flushing removes sediment that, over time, can cause discolored water. Flushing at appropriate velocities can remove these sediments and can improve taste, odor and color.

It ensures proper operation of the distribution system components. Flushing requires the opening and closing of hydrants and valves to ensure that water moves through pipe segments for effective cleaning. This practice allows operators to identify components that may not be operating correctly and have them repaired to ensure they will work properly in an emergency.

It allows the operators to ensure that the water system has proper disinfection levels in all locations.

## How could this affect you?

### **While flushing is occurring nearby, you may experience:**

- ★ Water pressure and volume fluctuation. This is temporary, and your pressure should return to normal when flushing is complete.
- ★ Noticeable discoloration in the water caused by the high velocity flushing as it removes the naturally occurring minerals that have settled out in the water main.
- ★ A stronger than normal chlorine odor.

## When will flushing happen?

Water main flushing is performed annually from September through June, with the entire system being completed biennially.

Additional flushing will occur as needed to ensure water quality standards are met throughout the water distribution system.