

Hydrant Flushing

Hydrant Flushing Schedule

Why are hydrants flushed?

Once a year we release water from hydrants in a sequence. Hydrant flushing is necessary to test the hydrants to make sure the hydrants are in working order, and to test for adequate flow and pressure. Flushing is also done to remove water clarity and quality in the distribution pipes. The hydrants are flushed one or two at a time, in sequence, away from the water source (Cornwall Road Pump Station). This way the minerals and deposits in the water continue to be flushed toward the outer limits of the distribution system and not back toward the storage tanks.

Is my water safe to drink during or after flushing?

Your water is safe to drink and cook in. Hydrant flushing helps us to continue to provide customers with high-water quality.

What should I be concerned about?

You can continue to use your water service. While flushing hydrants near your home or business, you might notice a slight decrease in water pressure which is normal. You will not be without water, only a little less pressure at the faucet. If water pressure seems low after flushing, check your faucet screens for trapped particles.

Check for discolored water before using the washing machine or dishwasher. Wait until the water runs clear at the cold water tap in the lowest level of your home before doing laundry or running the dishwasher. NOTE: If your laundry becomes stained, DO NOT PUT YOUR LAUNDRY IN THE DRYER. Rewash clothes immediately using detergent and add a rust remover. Most rust removers can also be used on stained fixtures. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water and does not affect water quality. No health hazards are associated with discolored water from hydrant flushing. It is harmless and the water may be safely consumed.

How can I find out when hydrants will be flushed in my area?

We cannot know exactly when we will be in your area, but we can give you a general idea. Information regarding hydrant flushing can be obtained by calling the Cornwall Borough office at (717)274-3436. The office is staffed Monday – Friday from 7:00 am to 4:00 p.m.

I received a call from Cornwall Borough, why?

The call was to make you aware that hydrant flushing would be starting soon. If you did not receive a call please fill out a contact form (located on the website) or call the office and update your records. We use your contact information to make you aware of water main breaks, boil water advisories or other water related emergencies. The information you provide is confidential. This information is shared with the local police department only.

How much water does hydrant flushing use?

No more water is used than is absolutely necessary. Once the water at the hydrant runs clear the flow is stopped. We appreciate your concern for water conservation.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to maintain the water system.

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