



Public Works - Water Department – WATER DISCOLORATION INFORMATION

Water system flushing, firefighting activities, extremely high system demand, and the start-up or shut-down of water system facilities can increase the velocity at which water travels through water mains faster than normal. If the water's speed becomes great enough, iron and manganese sediment lying on the bottom of the mains may get stirred up, resulting in discolored water.

Discolored water caused by iron and manganese oxide sediment is safe to drink. During such discolored water episodes, your water continues to meet all State and Federal drinking water standards for public health and safety.

If your drinking water becomes discolored, avoid using your washing machine and dishwasher until the water clears. To remove the discoloration, flush the pipes in your house using the following procedure:

1. Run the outside front hose faucet at full force for a few minutes or until the water clears.
2. If the water does not clear after a few minutes, wait another hour and repeat the process until the water is clear at the outside front hose faucet.
3. Flush the cold water faucets throughout the house. Start by flushing the cold water faucet in the bathtub. If you are concerned about wasting water, water the backyard from the backyard hose bib for several minutes or until the water clears.
4. After the tub or backyard faucet runs clear, flush all of the other cold water household faucets; starting from the front of the house (nearest the street), then the rest of the cold water faucets within the home.
5. If necessary, remove faucet aerators and clear any particles and then reinstall them.

If the water still fails to clear, contact the Public Works Department at: (253) 517-2716 or (253)-922-8738.