

Flushing of the City's Water Mains

The City has hired **NO-DES**, a state-of-the-art flushing company to assist City staff with the flushing of the City's water mains. **NO-DES** uses their patented flushing truck to flush the water through filters to remove the buildup of minerals from the water, then return the water into the system. This technology helps the City with its goal of water conservation while cleaning the water mains and waste very little water during the process.



Why Flush

Flushing the water mains improves water quality by removing sediment that slowly builds up at the bottom of the water main over time. The sediment comes from internal corrosion of the water mains over many years. ... The fast-moving water scours and cleans the mains.



How do minerals get into Milton's Water?

All of Milton's water system is served by groundwater. Groundwater is, typically, high in mineral content; especially iron and manganese. These minerals build up inside the distribution mains.

How long does it take to clean the water mains on each street?

It takes about 30 to 60 minutes to flush the water mains on each street.

Why can't Milton clean the water mains at night?

It is safer for staff to work on the streets in daylight. Also, daylight provides better visibility to see when all the sediment has been flushed out and the water is running clear. During a flushing operation in your neighborhood, you'll see crews flushing via fire hydrants and end of water main blow off pipes.

What else do Milton's Water customers need to know to prepare for the flushing process?

During the actual flushing process, water customers may experience some disturbance in their usual water service such as a short-term decrease in water pressure or the appearance of "discolored water". Although the water should not pose a health risk, it is best to avoid drinking the water until it runs clear from the tap. Avoid washing clothes during the week of the flushing in your area and don't wash if there is a discolored tint to the water. Do your laundry over the weekend to avoid the possibility of having stained clothes. Do not prepare baby food

or formula if the water is discolored. Use bottled water or pre-prepared food and formula. You can also boil the water for 1 minute to ensure safety. It's often a good idea to use water stored in the refrigerator to drink, even when the flushing program is over. This a good habit to get into in the case of an emergency

What should I do if my water is discolored after Milton has flushed the water mains?

Water is sometimes discolored after water main cleaning, but this should not last long. In the event customers draw discolored water into the home, flush through the bathtub or outside faucet for up to 15 minutes. We suggest these areas because they do not have screens, the discolored water may have small particles that can build up on the screens of kitchen and bathroom faucets. Never choose a tap that has a water filter connected to it, or the sediment may clog your filter.

To check for clear water:

- Catch some water in a light-colored cup or container, if it is clear, you can use your water.
- If the water coming from the tap does not clear in five minutes, wait 30 minutes and try again.
- If your water does not clear up after this contact our **Utility Supervisor at 253-517-2736**.

Is this discolored water hazardous?

As mentioned, the minerals that build up in our water mains are naturally occurring in our groundwater. These are primarily iron and manganese. While these minerals pose aesthetic concerns (discolored water, stained fixtures) they are not recognized as health risks.

How does this affect my bill?

If you run your water for 15 minutes at the current rate of \$2.68/748 gallons, the cost of flushing would be approximately 80 cents.

As a precaution, prior to using hot water, run the cold water tap for a few minutes to ensure discolored water is not drawn into the hot water tank.