

Hydrant Flushing

You may notice the Lowell Township Water Department working at fire hydrants and see water running down the street. Normally in the fall, we flush water lines using fire hydrants, which is an important preventive maintenance activity. Although it may appear to waste water, the process is part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and allowing us to ensure the hydrants are in proper working order. Hydrants that are found not to be in working order are tagged and submitted for repair. As a result of the line flushing process, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and air and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your home by running all water faucets for a few minutes. The same philosophy of water line and hydrant preventive maintenance is one that you should use in your own home to ensure the quality of water inside your home.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

A: The city's water distribution system is a complex network of pipes and storage reservoirs where sediment and/or deposits may naturally accumulate over time. If not removed, these materials may 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. This can result in degraded water quality.

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.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call the Lowell Charter Township Water Dept. at (616)-897-7600 during normal business hours or e-mail at: water@lowelltp.org