



## Hydrant Flushing Program – Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Why does the Water Department flush water mains (pipes) and hydrants?**

A: Each year, The City of Barberton Water Department performs maintenance on our water pipes by flushing hydrants in our system. This is essential because it helps us to continue to provide customers with high- quality water service, as well as allowing us to inspect each hydrant.

**Q: When will hydrant flushing start, and how long will it take to complete?**

A: Flushing will start each year at the break of the winter weather, and will continue daily until completed, we expect this to last approximately 6-8 months, however that is just an estimate.

**Q: When will you be in my area flushing?**

A: Due to our schedule, it is difficult at this point to pinpoint the exact day and time that we will be in your area. We always place notification signs in the right of way of the neighborhoods we will be in, prior to starting that area.

**Q: How does flushing work?**

A: We systematically open our fire hydrants to increase water flows – allowing us to “flush” any minerals and deposits from the pipes, improving the quality of the water.

**Q: Can I still use my water service?**

A: While flushing the system won't interrupt your water service, when crews are working in your area, you may notice a temporary drop in water pressure or discolored water. This is normal. If discolored water occurs, let the cold water run to clear before using it again and refrain from doing laundry during that time.

**Q: What if discolored water occurs?**

A: 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. In some cases, slight discoloration might linger for a few hours. 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.

**Q: What if my water pressure drops?**

A: A slight drop in water pressure is normal. If water pressure or water volume seems low after flushing has been completed, check your faucet screens for trapped particles.

**Q: Could the flushing water be saved in tanks or spread on lawns?**

A: Conservation is important. During flushing, water must be directed through designated parts of our main lines and flushed out of opened hydrants at a high velocity. If released on the ground, that water would destroy lawns, trample plants, and erode bare soils. If released directly into local creeks, it could potentially harm the habitat. We are unable to fill water trucks without interrupting or impeding the scouring process. Water utilities are looking at emerging technologies that would allow us to recycle the water, and flushing methods may likely be different in the future.

**Q: How much water is used in the flushing program?**

A: Flushing uses a small percentage of our annual community use. No more water is used than absolutely necessary. Once the water runs clear, the flow is stopped. We appreciate your concern for water conservation and encourage you to learn more about ways you can conserve water at home.

**If you see a hydrant being flushed while driving by, please slow down and use caution. If you have any further questions about hydrant flushing, please call us at (330)848-6747 M-F from 7am-4pm.**