

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the Water department Flushing hydrants?

A: Hydrant flushing is a crucial maintenance practice mandated by the **Ohio EPA** to ensure **public health**, maintain **water quality**, and verify firefighting capabilities.

Q: What should I expect?

A: While this process improves long-term water safety, it can occasionally stir up sediment and cause a temporary drop in water pressure or rust/tea-colored water. The water is typically still safe to drink, but it is highly recommended to **avoid doing laundry** during flushing windows, as the discolored water can stain light-colored clothing.

Contact us

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(740) 453-3113



Village of South Zanesville

Residential Water Flushing Procedure



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Step 1.

Residents and end users should start outside the home/building at the exterior hose bib/faucet and open the hose bib/faucet to the “full open” position.



Step 2.

Allow the exterior water line to run for at least 2 minutes, or up to 10 minutes until the water runs clear. Be sure to close the hose bib/faucet when you are done. Beginning the flush outside the home will target the service lines first and help to lower the chance of pulling sediment into the home’s interior plumbing.

Step 3.

Inside the home, remove any aerators from the kitchen and bathroom faucets prior to beginning the flush. Removing the aerators will allow any sediment to flow freely and eliminate the chance of sediment getting stuck in the aerator screen.

Most faucet aerators will come off by gripping the aerator and turning it clockwise while looking down at the sink. If the aerator is on too tight you may need a pair of pliers. If you need to use pliers, cover the upper and lower teeth with electrical tape so the aerator doesn’t get scratched.

Step 4.

While the aerators are off, inspect the screens for debris or hard water buildup. Hold the aerator under running water and use your finger to remove any debris. If debris is stuck in the aerator screens, use a spare toothbrush to gently scrub away the debris. For hard water buildup, soak the aerator in distilled white vinegar for 20-30min, then rinse the aerator under running water.

Step 5.

Open all COLD water taps inside the home to the “full open” position, including kitchen, bathroom, and shower faucets. Allow all interior COLD water taps to run full open at the same time for at least 2 minutes, or up to 10 minutes, until the water runs clear. Close all COLD water taps. Flushing cold water taps before hot water taps will prevent pulling sediment through the hot water heater where it could potentially get stuck.

Step 6.

With the faucet aerators still removed, open all HOT water taps to the “full open” position, this includes kitchen, bathroom, and shower faucets. Allow all interior HOT water taps to run full open for at least 2 minutes, or up to 10 minutes, until the water runs clear. Close all HOT water taps. Flushing hot water taps last will bring fresh water into the hot water heater.

Step 7.

After flushing both cold and hot water taps, reinstall the faucet aerators that were removed, if you have them.



