



Water System Flushing

In the spring, town employees release water from fire hydrants and some valves in the town's water system and perform basic maintenance on them. This "flushing" of the water mains helps remove sediments, improving the water system's circulation and water quality. When the town performs its annual required disinfection of the water system, the flushing also helps ensure chlorine flows through the entire system.

Time period

Flushing typically occurs for about a month, moving through different parts of the town's service area. The maintenance usually starts in the center of town and then moves north and south simultaneously. An estimated 6 million gallons of water is flushed.

Flushing may occur at other times following repairs or other work to the town's water mains. It is an allowable discharge into the town's stormwater system, but the flow is controlled to reduce velocity.



Maintenance and access

When performing maintenance, staff will open and lubricate each hydrant and identify any follow-up repair needs.

During the process:

- Town personnel may be required to trim plantings or remove other items to ensure that adequate access to the hydrants exists for emergencies and maintenance.
- Community members may be asked to relocate plants and other items in street rights-of-way where necessary to provide a clear, 3-foot-wide area around a hydrant.

Effect on water

Opening the hydrants might cause some temporary cloudiness or discoloration of water due to air bubbles or the stirring-up of small particles of settled iron and manganese. The discoloration does not make water unsafe to drink, but it could discolor light-colored fabric. The naturally occurring minerals also are contained in food.

If discoloration or air bubbles appear in the water, customers should run cold water in a bathtub for a few minutes until the water and air bubbles clear. If the water does not clear within five minutes, contact the Water Treatment Plant at 919-732-3621.

More information

For more information on water system flushing, contact the Water Treatment Plant at 919-732-3621.

For more information on the annual disinfection process, see the Annual Chlorine Disinfection document on the town's website.