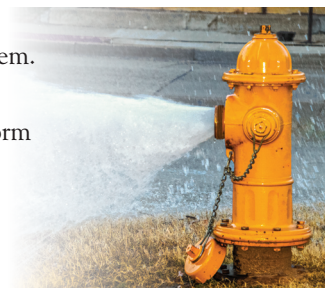




Hydrant Flushing Cleans the Water Mains

Periodically, the City opens up the hydrants full-force in a neighborhood and floods the streets with water. Hydrant flushing, as it's called, is a necessity, for it enhances water quality and extends the lifespan of the system. Among the many benefits hydrant flushing provides are:

- ◆ Periodic, high-velocity flushing helps dislodge and remove the sediment, silt, and other types of scale that form within the distribution system.
- ◆ Removal of this scale ensures drinking water will remain at the highest quality.
- ◆ The cleared pipes help maintain proper water pressure within our homes.
- ◆ The increased flow within the system protects the City's fire fighting capabilities.
- ◆ And finally, flushing allows water operators to identify broken and inoperable valves and hydrants, so they can keep the system working at maximum potential.



But hydrant flushing, while necessary, is wasteful. Countless gallons are flushed away each time the water lines are scoured. This is why the City continually looks for ways to reduce the waste.

Recently, a new technology was deployed to help conserve the water traditional hydrant flushing will lose. It's a mobile unit that connects two hydrants together to create a temporary "loop" in the water distribution system. With the aid of powerful pumps, water is flushed through the loop at high velocity then routed through a series of filters which remove the particulate matter before returning the water to the system. Pipes are scoured clean and fresh water is saved.

Truly, this is a useful answer to our water distribution system flushing and conservation needs. And it helps place the Huntington Beach Water Division exactly where we desire to be: Leading by Example in Water Conservation!



How to Minimize Flushing's Effects on Your Home or Office

Flushing works by using accelerated water pressure to scour mineral sediment and other scale from the distribution lines. Most of this is flushed into the street when the hydrants are opened, or captured in the filters of the closed loop system.

During flushing, you may experience a temporary discoloration of your water; it may be a rusty brown or cloudy-looking. *There are no health concerns associated with this discolored water. Your water remains safe, meeting if not exceeding all water quality standards.*

This discoloration usually subsides on its own in a few hours. However, if your tap water remains discolored, there are simple ways for you clear it.

- ◆ Start by opening the cold water tap nearest to where the water feed enters the building. Let it run a few minutes. (You can capture this water in a bucket and use it on your garden plants.) If the water doesn't clear after flushing a few minutes, turn the tap off and try flushing again five or ten minutes later.
- ◆ When the initial tap has cleared, proceed with flushing the rest of the fixtures one at a time. Toilets should be flushed last and may take several flushes to clear. After the cold water lines are cleared, flush the hot water fixtures. In most cases, water should run clear after just a few minutes.
- ◆ Finally, check the faucet screens for trapped particles.
- ◆ And remember, while safe, using this discolored water for dishwashing, laundry, or showering may stain white or light-colored clothes or household items. To protect your light-colored clothes, wash a load of dark-colored clothes first. And should any light-colored clothes be stained, keep them wet and treat them with a commercial stain remover before washing them again.



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