

WATERMAIN FLUSHING & HYDRANT MAINTENANCE

Flushing will be conducted throughout Prince Edward County during both the spring and fall:

SPRING PROGRAM: April-May

Wellington Drinking Water System
Picton/Bloomfield Drinking Water System

FALL PROGRAM: August-October

Wellington Drinking Water System
Picton/Bloomfield Drinking Water System
Carrying Place/Consecon Drinking Water System
Rossmore/Fenwood Gardens Drinking Water System

Hydrant flushing may cause temporary discolouration to your water supply, but **does not affect the safety or quality of your water**. Water is consistently undergoing required testing and quality control. The County is committed to providing safe, quality water supply to our customers.

When hydrant flushing is taking place in your area, residents are asked to reduce water use where possible (Example: running tap water, using the washing machine and dish washer simultaneously). Customers are advised to wait until the water runs clear at the tap before doing laundry or running the dishwasher while flushing is underway in your neighbourhood.

For more information, contact Customer Service at 613.476.2148 x 221 or info@pecounty.on.ca. You may also visit our Customer Service Desk at Shire Hall, 332 Picton Main Street, Picton ON K0K 2T0.

Facts About Hydrant Flushing

What is Hydrant Flushing?

Hydrant flushing is a part of the annual maintenance program for the water distribution system. Flushing removes particles and minerals that form over time inside the water mains, widening the pathway for water to flow. Flushing and inspection also helps to ensure proper operating conditions for fighting fires.

Hydrant Flushing does not impact water quality; however residents in the flushing area may experience intermittent pressure fluctuations and discoloured water while flushing is underway.

Why is Flushing Necessary?

- To ensure continual, adequate supply of potable water for necessary uses.
- To meet Public Safety needs through fire protection (under the Ontario Fire Code, O.Reg. 730/81).
- To confirm that water supply systems, including valves and hydrants are in good working order.

What to expect during Hydrant Flushing

- Discoloured water as a result of dislodging particles and minerals that have settled in the watermain. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water and does not affect water quality. No health hazards are associated with the discoloured water that results from flushing.
- Reduced water pressure in areas where flushing is being conducted, and potential irregular pressure if flushing is being conducted in nearby areas.

Managing Coloured Water

- If you experienced discoloured water, simply flush the cold water tap closest to your water meter for a few minutes to clear any remaining discoloured water from your pipes and fixtures. Other household taps can also be flushed to ensure no discoloured water remains in the plumbing for your home
- If your laundry becomes stained as a result of discoloured water, re-wash clothing immediately using detergent and a rust remover. Most rust removers can also be used on stained fixtures.
- In some cases, slight discoloration of water 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 the discoloured water that results from flushing.
- If water pressure or water volume in your home seems low after flushing has been completed in your area, check your faucet screens for any trapped particles.
- If possible, users are asked to avoid excessive water use while flushing is taking place in their area.