

2018 Water Main Flushing Program



The Village of Morton will begin the Spring flushing program on April 8, 2018.

What is the Water Main Flushing Program?

Water main flushing can be performed either by means of conventional flushing or unidirectional flushing to induce high water velocities which effectively removes deposits and cleans the pipe. In order to effectively clean the water main, a scouring velocity of 5 feet per second is desired. Conventional flushing, which consists of sequentially opening fire hydrants, can sometimes achieve the scouring velocities. In locations where the scouring velocity cannot be achieved, unidirectional flushing is required. Unidirectional flushing is a systematic method of closing water main valves and opening hydrants to direct water at high velocities through the pipe.

The water main flushing program has been developed to start at the water source in order to systematically draw clean water through the system. Since the source of water for the Village of Morton is on the southwest side of the Village, those areas will be flushed first.

Purpose

The purpose of the flushing program is to provide better water quality and service to our customers. Flushing water mains removes sediment that may have accumulated in the pipes over several years. The Village performs water main flushing annually to ensure high levels of water quality within the distribution system.

Converting to Free Chlorine

The Village of Morton uses chloramines as their primary form of disinfectant. Due to the presence of ammonia in the water, there is the potential for nitrification in the distribution system. Nitrification can affect water quality. To control nitrification, the Village will be converting from chloramine to free chlorine for one week prior to water main flushing and continue until flushing is almost complete.

Customers might notice a more pronounced chlorine smell in the water during this time. Be assured that the free chlorine levels will be within EPA regulated levels and, therefore, the water will be safe to drink.

Flushing Procedure

In each area, water mains requiring unidirectional flushing will be flushed first followed by water mains that require conventional flushing. This might result in unidirectional flushing occurring on the main road one day and then conventional flushing on side streets a few days or weeks later. So be aware that a given area could be impacted by flushing multiple, non-consecutive days.

When

Generally, flushing will take place 24 hours per day for approximately four weeks to complete. The daily schedule of the areas for flushing will be updated on the website and on iTV-3 channel 23 and Comcast channel 22.

How Will Flushing Affect Water Service?

When flushing crews are working near your residence or business, you may experience periods of very low pressure. Should you experience a loss of water service, please notify flushing crews or call the Village at (309) 266-5361.

Given the scouring velocities involved, flushing operations will likely lead to discolored water during, or immediately following the flushing. If discoloration occurs, open the cold tap nearest the water meter - usually a basement sink or outside spigot - to full flow until the water runs clear. It is also advised that you make sure your water is clear before doing laundry or other projects for which discolored water could cause problems. This may require running a cold water cycle through your washing machine in addition to the steps listed above.

Discolored water poses no threat to your health, although it is recommended to avoid drinking or cooking with the discolored water.

The benefits of flushing include removal of rust and sediment, improved chlorine residual, and reduction in taste and odor; all of which can help provide high quality water to the residents.

Things you can do as a homeowner or business owner

- If water discoloration is noticed in your residence or building, stop all water use and wait, several hours may be required to rid the cloudiness from the water mains that serve your home or business.
- Turn on outside spigots, cold water bathtub faucets, flush toilets, and run a cycle through the washing machine to clear the water in your service line.
- Do not wash clothes or run a dishwasher during or immediately after flushing takes place. Washing clothes with discolored water can cause laundry stains.
- Discolored water poses no threat to your health. You may wish to avoid drinking or cooking with the water.

Further Questions

If you have further questions about the water main flushing program, please contact the Village of Morton at (309) 266-5361.

***The Village of Morton
appreciates your patience as we
work to improve the quality of
drinking water.***