

What to Know About Water Line Flushing

How to Flush Your Water Lines at Home

If you notice cloudy or discolored water after nearby water line flushing, follow these steps to clear your home's plumbing:

- 1. Run cold water only.**
Turn on the cold water tap at the highest point in your home (usually a bathroom or kitchen sink) and let it run for **5–10 minutes** or until the water runs clear.
- 2. Flush through multiple faucets.**
Once the first faucet runs clear, open cold water taps throughout your home — including tubs, outdoor spigots, and utility sinks — for a few minutes to pull fresh water through your entire plumbing system.
- 3. Avoid using hot water initially.**
Running discolored water into your hot water tank can draw sediment into it. Wait until your cold water is clear before using any hot water.
- 4. Check your appliances.**
Before doing laundry or running your dishwasher, make sure your tap water is completely clear to avoid staining or discoloration.
- 5. Clean faucet screens if needed.**
Sediment stirred up during flushing can collect in aerators or screens. Remove and rinse them if you notice reduced water pressure or buildup.
- 6. Outdoor irrigation or hose bibs.**
If you have outdoor systems, flush from an outside spigot for a few minutes — this helps clear the service line leading into your home.

Why We Flush Water Lines

- Over time, mineral deposits, sediment, or air can accumulate in distribution lines.
- Flushing helps clear these deposits and ensures water quality and clarity.
- Occurs periodically to maintain system reliability and reduce taste, odor, or discoloration issues.

What You Can Expect

| Observation | What It Means | What You Should Do |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Cloudy or discolored water | Sediment is being flushed from the lines | Run cold water for 1–2 minutes until it clears |
| Air bubbles / sputtering | Air is being purged from pipes | Let tap run until flow is normal |
| Reduced water pressure | System is being cleaned in your area | Expect temporary pressure loss; it should return after flushing |

Tips for Residents

- Run taps on cold only (don't use hot water while flushing in your area).
- Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and filling containers until water appears clear.
- Avoid laundry or dishwashing during flushing activity (sediment may stain fabrics or appliances).
- If your water remains discolored for more than a few minutes after flushing, flush longer or contact us.

Questions or Concerns?

Town of Clayton Public Works

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