



Fire Hydrant Flushing – Frequently Asked Questions

What is fire hydrant flushing?

Fire hydrant flushing is the process of opening fire hydrants and allowing water to flow at high velocity through water mains. This helps remove sediment and minerals that naturally build up inside water pipes.

Why does the City flush hydrants?

Hydrant flushing benefits:

- Improve water quality by removing sediment
- Verify hydrants function properly
- Identify potential maintenance needs.

This is a routine and important part of maintaining a safe and reliable water system.

When does hydrant flushing occur?

Flushing is typically scheduled during winter or spring months and may occur at night. Drinking water regulations recommend water distribution systems to be flushed regularly.

What temporary effects might you notice during hydrant flushing?

- Slightly discolored water
 - Noisy Operations
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What should I do if my water is discolored?

If you notice discoloration:

1. Run cold water from a bathtub faucet for several minutes until it clears.
2. Avoid using hot water until the cold water runs clear.

If discoloration persists, contact City of Santa Barbara Water Distribution.

For questions or concerns, please contact:

Department of Water Resources, Water Distribution

Phone: (805) 564-5413

Email: PWControl10@SantaBarbaraCA.gov