



DuPage County Public Works Water Division

Hydrant Flushing Activities

Hydrant flushing is scheduled at least annually for DuPage County Unincorporated Water Systems. The frequency is based upon each water system's usage, quality and hydraulic conditions. DuPage County informs its customers on the backside of water bills and by posting Hydrant Flushing Signs near major entrances to each service area being flushed. Not all activities are posted immediately; i.e. during emergency procedures from pressure disruptions caused by water main breaks, firefighting or other excessive usage. Water pressure disruptions can loosen debris that may contain mineral deposits and or other impurities.

During the flushing:

Try not to use any water (*hot or cold*) until after we've hydrant flushed at least two hydrants directly before and after your location.

If you're using water while we are flushing the lines clear, you might pull rusty water into your building.

After flushing is completed:

After we've cleared our lines surrounding your location, we recommend you conduct a thorough cold water flushing activity within your building to deliver fresh clean/clear drinking water into all of your plumbing fixtures.

Remove all aerators and clean off any debris, run each tap from the meter (i.e. basement deep sink) to the top floor or the end of the line, for at least 5 minutes or until consistently cold and clear.

Use your finger to determine the water is consistently cold and not room temperature.

Replace cleaned aerators after your lines have been completely flushed. Do not run any hot water or filtered devices such as icemakers or carbon filters until after you've cleared up the building's cold water plumbing lines.

**** Routinely flushing and cleaning aerators will help reduce any exposure to lead or other debris within your plumbing's fixtures.***

At this time, you may consider flushing the hot water heater by using its hose connection drain located on the bottom of the hot water heater. *Always follow the hot water heater manufacturer's instructions for maintenance and flushing procedures.* After the hot water heater is cleaned of any debris you may need to follow the same flushing steps starting from the closest hot faucet to the heater and flushing every faucet through-out the building. Again, remove aerators and flush these hot water lines until clear.

Any large unused areas of buildings have the potential of holding stagnant water within the plumbing. Avoid drinking *stagnant water (water that's been idle in a pipe longer than 6 hours)*, always consider a method to deliver fresh clean, cold water before consumption. There are many options for treating your drinking water i.e. POU or Point of Use filters and devices, designed to deliver clean water without the need of pre flushing stagnant conditions. If you have any questions please call 630-964-7503 and one of our water operators will gladly help you.

Helpful Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFCsHYX_rZU

Our webpage: http://www.co.dupage.il.us/Public_Works/1389/