

# Water Main Flushing

## What is Water Main Flushing?

Flushing is a preventative maintenance process that removes harmless minerals and sediment that collect in the mains and helps maintain water clarity, quality and fire protection

## Why Does TUI Flush Water Mains?

Flushing helps maintain water quality. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality and meets all standards; however, water quality can deteriorate in distribution mains if the mains are not properly managed. This is why flushing is important. Flushing maintains water quality in several ways.

- Flushing removes sediments from the mains. These sediments mostly include iron and manganese. Iron sediment results from corrosion of iron pipes and valves used in the distribution system. Other iron sediments result from the change of dissolved iron, which occurs naturally in our water, into sediment form. This occurs in the presence of chlorine and oxygen under certain low flow conditions. Dissolved manganese also occurs naturally in our water and it can be changed into sediment as with iron. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can degrade the “acceptability” of the water by affecting the taste, clarity, and color of the water.
- Hydrant flushing also improves fire protection by testing the operation of our hydrants.



## How will flushing affect my water?

During the process, you might experience a difference in the water pressure in your faucets as well as some discoloration in the water.

## How long does it take to flush the hydrant?

Typically, this process takes between 30 and 60 minutes.

## When will my water be back to normal and ready for use?

Once the hydrants in your area have completed their flushing, it won't be long until your water is ready for normal use again. In most cases, water should run clear with just a few minutes of faucet flow. **Turn your faucets on cold and let the water run for 5 minutes or so. TUI recommends turning on your bathtub first so any possible sediment doesn't clog sink faucet screens. If you are still seeing discolored water or sediment in the water, continue running cold water on all your faucets until it is clear. We strongly recommend that you do not use hot water during flushing to avoid sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.** Should your water still be discolored after several hours, please contact us.