

Water Flushing FAQ's



During a flushing operation in your neighborhood, you'll see crews flushing via fire hydrants and end of water main blow off pipes.

Why does Payette “flush” the water mains?

Flushing the water mains improves water quality by removing sediment that slowly builds up at the bottom of the water main over time. The sediment comes from internal corrosion of the water mains over many years.

How will I know when Payette is cleaning the water mains in my neighborhood?

We will inform residents before starting the flushing program by posting notices on our website and Facebook.

What should I do if my water is discolored after the water mains have been flushed?

Water is sometimes discolored after water main cleaning, but this should not last long. In the event customers draw discolored water into the home, flush a cold tap only a few minutes, up to 15 minutes maximum. As a precaution, prior to using hot water run the cold water tap for a few minutes to ensure discolored water is not drawn into the hot water tank.

What should I do if the water is still discolored after three to four hours?

Contact Payette City Hall at 208-642-6024

How long does it take to clean the water mains on each street?

It takes about 30 minutes to 60 minutes to flush the water mains on each street.

Why can't the water mains be cleaned at night?

It's safer for staff to work on the streets in daylight. Also, daylight provides better visibility to see when all the sediment has been flushed out and the water is running clear.



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Is water main cleaning a waste of water?

No, this is a normal and necessary part of maintaining a safe and reliable drinking water supply. If water is discharged into the environment, it will soak back into the groundwater basins for reuse.

How will I be affected?

Flushing will generally occur between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. for most neighborhoods. Specific hydrants will be used to discharge water. There may be a slight drop in pressure or noticeable discoloration of the water from the minerals and sediments that are being flushed out. Water service should not be disrupted during the flushing process.

What about water pressure and safety?

Flushing may cause short-term pressure fluctuations along with sediments in the water reaching your home or business, try to not use water during this time. Your water remains safe, meeting if not exceeding all water quality standards.

To clear your water:

We advise our customers to flush a cold tap for a few minutes, for up to 15 minutes maximum. Do not choose a tap that has a water filter connected to it, or the sediment may clog your filter. Do not use a hot water tap because it could draw sediment into your hot water tank.

- Catch some water in a light-colored cup or container, if it is clear, you can use your water.
- If the water coming from the tap doesn't clear in five minutes, wait 30 minutes and try again.



If you have any questions or concerns, please call
Payette City Hall at 208-642-6024