

# Hawthorn Redbank Redbank Municipal Authority

## Hydrant Flushing or Contract work on lines

Water main flushing is necessary to preserve water quality in the distribution system. Our goal is to flush all mains in our system each year. We cannot flush in the winter, because water that is flushed from hydrants could form ice and make driving and walking dangerous. We cannot flush in the midst of high demands periods, because that would be a burden on our system and leave us with no available flow for fire emergencies. That leaves us with a window of time in the spring and the fall, and occasional periods in the summer.

Every water system will gradually accumulate sediments in the water mains, and those sediments lead to reduced quality of water. When there's a high localized demand and therefore higher than normal flows in the main, sediments are scoured into the flow of the water, creating discoloration. Furthermore, the sediments in the system, even when not stirred up, will react with chlorine, causing a reduction in chlorine at the points farthest from the dosing point. To counter that and provide sufficient disinfectant throughout the system, a higher dose of chlorine would have to be used, which can cause objectionable taste to the water for those who live closest to the dosing point and cause the formation of unwanted disinfection byproducts. Therefore, flushing is needed to protect water aesthetics and public health.

### HELPFUL TIPS WHEN DEALING WITH MINERAL SEDIMENT:

Avoid running your tap water or using a washing machine or dishwasher while flushing is conducted in your area.

If discolored water occurs due to area flushing, run a cold water faucet (after flushing hours) for a few minutes until the water runs clear or check for discolored water before using a washing machine or dishwasher.

If your white clothes or fabrics become stained due to discolored water, (only when water is running clear from your faucet) re-wash your laundry using detergent together with a Rust and Iron removing agent.

These products also remove stains in toilets, sinks, tubs, tile and dishwashers.

Slight discoloration may sometimes linger for a few hours, it is not harmful to your health and only temporarily affects the appearance of the water it does not influence water quality.

If water pressure or volume seems low after flushing has been completed, check your faucet screens and home filters for trapped particles.

When water has become noticeably discolored it is an indication that there has been a disturbance to the normal flow of water within the main. This disturbance may have been caused by the opening or closing of a water main valve, the opening of a hydrant for flushing or fire protection or a water main break. If the water inside the pipe changes either speed or direction or both, this change can cause the sediments inside the pipes to lift from the bottom and flow with the water resulting in brown water coming out of the tap. Running a cold faucet briefly will assist in clearing sediment from your service line.

#### NOTE

When flushing mains; even if we are not directly ON your street, the connecting streets COULD experience some, all, or none of the same effects as that of the actual street being flushed.

It is safe to use and drink the water during flushing.

Please remember that the water is safe.

If you have further concerns contact the Municipal Authority at (814) 365 2298.

We regret any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.