

Water Main Flushing Program

FAQs

Why does the Town “flush” the water mains?

Flushing the water mains improves water quality by removing loose sediment and mineral deposits that slowly build up at the bottom of the water main over time. The sediment comes from internal corrosion and mineral deposits that form along the pipe wall.

The flushing program is a cost-effective preventative maintenance measure, and part of the process to ensure continued high-quality drinking water in the Town. It also helps identify areas of the water distribution system that might need repairs and upgrades.

What parts of the Town are flushed?

Water main flushing for the Town of Oromocto is typically performed over the summer months.



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

How will I be affected?

Flushing generally occurs between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. for most areas. 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 & 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.

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

Water is sometimes discolored after water main cleaning, but this should not last long. In the event residents draw discolored water into the home, flush a cold tap only a few minutes, up to 15 minutes maximum. Do not choose a tap that has a water filter connected to it, or the

DO's

- Flush cold tap for a few minutes, up to 15 minutes maximum.
- Catch some water in a light-coloured cup or container, if it is clear you can use your water.
- If the water coming from the tap doesn't clear in 5 minutes, wait 30 minutes and try again.

sediment may clog your filter. 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. If the water coming from the tap doesn't clear in five minutes, wait 30 minutes and try again.

What should I do if the water is still discoloured after 3-4 hours?

Contact the **Water & Sewer division** with the Department of Engineering & Public Works at **506-447-8481**.

Do other municipalities have similar water main cleaning programs?

Many municipalities have some type of flushing program to clean their water mains.

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.

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.

For more information, contact the **Water & Sewer division at 506-447-8481** or visit www.oromocto.ca/water-and-sewer.

DON'T's

- Do not choose a tap that has a water filter connected to it for flushing water as it may clog your filter.
- Do not use a hot water tap to flush water as it could draw sediment into your hot water tank.
- Do not do laundry until the water has cleared up.