



HOUSATONIC WATER WORKS COMPANY
SINCE 1897

Housatonic Water Works Company

Flushing Advisory May 13-24, 2024

Hydrant Flushing: Weekdays during May 13-23, 2024, we will be flushing our distribution system according to the schedule accompanying this notice. Every effort will be made to isolate disturbances to the sections being flushed; however, we want to remind customers that other areas may be affected as an unintended consequence.

The Company follows a hydrant flushing sequence for hydrants and blow-offs throughout its system. This protocol has been followed for many years. The flushing is broken into three sections to effectively flush those sections of the system and minimize disruption to other parts of the system. The main trunk line from the source intersecting North Plain Road, Van Deusenville Road to Park Street on the southern part of the distribution system bring water from the source which is then drawn sequentially through areas that are divided into sections as described below. Flushing in each of the three sections is conducted to minimize disturbances; however, flushing in general can cause occasional disturbances in other sections of the distribution system.

Section I consists of the transmission main running from the reservoir to the Division Street/North Plain Road, extending to the West Stockbridge Williamsville area. Section II consists of the Van Deusenville Road/downtown core, and extends to the Stockbridge Furnace area, whereas Section III consists primarily of Park Street from Ramsdell Road on the south to the Park Street bridge in the north. When Section I is being flushed, the transmission line to Section II at the intersection of North Plain Road and Main Street is shut off to provide unidirectional flushing. Likewise, when Section II is flushed, the North Plain Road and Main Street valve is closed, and the valve line at the Park Street Bridge is closed. Similarly, Section III is isolated from Sections I and II. Blow offs on secondary streets in each section are conducted upon completion of the primary lines in each section.



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Discolored Water

What is it?

Cloudy water and water that is not clear (has a color tint).

Is it safe to drink?

Yes. Water is processed through a slow sand filter and disinfected with Chlorine before entering the distribution system. Water is tested for bacteria and Chlorine levels are continuously monitored.

What causes it?

An unusual or sudden acceleration of the flow of water through the pipes such as when a hydrant is opened is the usual culprit. Water main breaks and excessive demand during hot spells can also occasion discolored water.

Why is it yellow - reddish brown?

Most mains in our system are 100 year old iron. As they age, fine rust sediment accumulates. Normally it stays on the bottom of the main. However, when water disturbances occur and stir up the sediment discoloration occurs. Significant disturbances create more discoloration.

Residual manganese (manganese sediment) continues to be present in our system and water disturbances stir up that sediment and discoloration occurs. Significant disturbances create more discoloration associated with manganese concentrations in the water. The already elevated levels of manganese may increase temporarily as a result of the flushing.

We are providing our customers this information so that they may make decisions on their use of water during this necessary flushing period. To assist residents in considering the effects of manganese, there is information available on MassDEP's website at https://www.mass.gov/doc/manganese-in-drinking-water-typical-questions-and-answers-for-consumers-0/download?_ga=2.9057909.1799507389.1666028524-578050206.1621544371.

Corrosion of galvanized service lines and household plumbing systems can also discolor water. Can these pipes be cleaned?

Our annual hydrant flushing program which occurs in the spring when water temperatures are colder purges much of the sediment out of our 17 miles of mains.

Warmer water accelerates corrosion and keeps the sediment suspended in the water longer so flushing the system during the summer may exacerbate the situation.

How long will it last?



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It is difficult to estimate how long bouts of discolored water will last or determine what parts of town will be affected. Variables such as location, duration and volume of water disturbed affect how long it will last.

Please follow our Facebook page for future updates or visit our website housatonicwater.com Thank you for being a valued customer.



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Hydrant Flushing Schedule

Our hydrant flushing program will be conducted weekdays between May 13-24, 2024 during the hours of 9:00-4:00PM.

To help you plan, the following represents our **anticipated** flushing schedule:

DAY 1-2

Christian Hill Road
North Plain Road
Crimson Lane
Brookside
Linda Lane
Wyantenuck Street
Water Street
Great Barrington Road
Division Street
Park Street (South)
Maple Street
Walnut Street blow off

Day 3-4

Park Street (Noth)
Spruce Street
Grove Street
Ramsdell Road
Mountain Street
Great Barrington Housing
Cone Avenue

DAY 5-6

Van Deusenville Road
Front Street
Oak Street
South Street
Main Street
Forrest Street
Highland Street
Pleasant Street
Meadow Street



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Fire Station
Depot & Main Street
High Street
Hart Street
Kirk & North
Street Kirk Street
Fairview Road
Prospect Street

DAY 7

Route 183 at Town Line
Blow off in woods
Furnace District
Apple Street
Housatonic Court
Furnace District at Route 183