

VILLAGE OF ELK RAPIDS

2020 WATER SYSTEM FLUSH

As part of our water system maintenance, the Village of Elk Rapids Department of Public Works (DPW) conducts system-wide flushing of fire hydrants and water mains. This work begins June 22 and continues through fall, throughout the village.

How will I be affected?

You may not even be aware that flushing is taking place in your area. Flushing is generally conducted between 8:00am – 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. Select hydrants will be opened for water main flushing. While the hydrants are open, the customers in that area

may experience discolored water or a small drop in water pressure. Your water service should not be interrupted. If you have no water pressure, please notify the DPW at 264-9971 as soon as possible.

What should I do after the flushing?

If tap water is used during flushing, it could come out discolored. **It is recommended that you do not use water or do laundry for two (2) hours.** If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes. After waiting, check the clarity by running cold water for a few minutes, allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. If the water is clear, it's OK to use. If not, wait a few more minutes and check again. In some cases, there may be slight discoloration for a few hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect water quality. Avoid washing laundry during scheduled flushing times. Wait until the water runs clear at the tap, then wash an empty load or a load of dark clothes first. If pressure or volume seems low, check your faucet screens for trapped particles. The screens may need to be removed and cleaned.

Why are we flushing?

Because water mains are sized to allow adequate and safe flows for fire protection, water typically is moving through the underground mains at less than 2 miles per hour. This slow

movement allows mineral deposits to build up and accumulate in mains over time. The buildup can restrict water flow in the mains and contributes to corrosion and water color problems. Periodic flushing of water mains removes the mineral deposits which helps maintain our Village's infrastructure, assures consistent high quality water and superior firefighting capacity. Flushing also provides an opportunity for DPW personnel to identify any potential problems in the distribution system that may need attention.

Is flushing a waste of water?

No. The amount and cost of water used in flushing is a small price to pay compared to the benefits of assuring the quality of your water and maintaining our infrastructure.

Our Mission

The mission of the DPW is first and foremost to provide safe, uninterrupted, quality water to our customers. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation of these efforts. **If you have any questions, feel free to call the DPW at 264-9971.**

