

Lewis County Utilities Division
Water Main Flushing Program
March 18-22, 2024
Frequently Asked Questions

The Lewis County Utilities Division maintains over 150 miles of pipe to make sure you receive clean water every day. The Utilities Division has established a preventative water system maintenance program to allow us to provide high quality drinking water to our customers.

Why does Lewis County Utilities need to clean the water mains?

Over time, minerals from our Intake water can accumulate inside water pipes. While these minerals are generally harmless, changes in flow can sometimes result in cloudy, discolored water. These materials need to be removed regularly in order to maintain high water *quality*.

How are the water mains cleaned?

The utility operator opens fire hydrants and blow-off valves to flow large amounts of water in a planned route. The water travels so fast that it is strong enough to remove the build-up of minerals from inside the pipes. We refer to this activity as "flushing".

What should I expect to see when Lewis County Utilities Division performs water main flushing?

You may notice a slight discoloration of your water when flushing takes place. This is temporary and is not harmful to your health. If you experience coloring or sediment in your water, remove the screen from your tap and let your tap flow for a short time (5-20 minutes) until it runs clear before using it for drinking, cooking, or clothes washing.

When flushing does occur, you may see water flowing along the gutter line of the street and entering storm drains. At times, this water may be very cloudy or brownish in color.

When does water main flushing take place?

Flushing activities typically begin each fall and continue until late spring (October through May). Because water main cleaning uses large amounts of water, flushing does not take place in the summer when customer demand for water is at its highest.

Some parts of the water system require flushing more frequently and may need cleaning every other month. Water quality sampling throughout the distribution system, helps staff determine which parts of the system need greater attention.

Questions?

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about your water service such as discolored water or low pressure, please call us at (360) 740-1371 during regular business hours, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or email us at customerservice.utilities@lewiscountywa.gov.