



**MABL  
Water System Flushing  
Frequently Asked Questions**

The Distribution and Maintenance crews perform water system flushing annually. Flushing consists of opening fire hydrants and blow off valves to remove sediment from the water lines. Flushing only a portion of a water system can affect the entire system. Here are some frequently asked questions about the water system flushing procedure.

**Why do you flush the water system?**

The water system is flushed to remove sediment from the water distribution lines and keep the entire water distribution system refreshed.

**How often do you flush the water system?**

The entire distribution system is flushed, at a minimum, annually.

**Is there any particular time you flush the system?**

Flushing is scheduled for 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There are instances when flushing is done over night.

**How do I know when my area will be flushed?**

Water system flushing dates for specific areas are listed on our *Water Quality* tab at; [www.lewistownwater.com](http://www.lewistownwater.com).

Of course it's possible that a date(s) may change if any unanticipated problems arise during the flushing procedure.

**Will there be more than one day of flushing, should I refrain from using the water each day?**

That's a recommendation. You may experience discolored water on any of the dates listed, but particularly when the crews are in your neighborhood. If the system is stirred up when you use water in your home, you could draw the discoloration into your internal plumbing causing discoloration at your faucets, etc.

Try to limit activities, such as doing laundry, on all dates the crews are in your neighborhood.

**Can I drink the water during the system flush?**

Yes. The discoloration of the water is caused by iron particles and it not a health concern. Understandably, you may not want to drink discolored water even though it's not a health risk.

A recommendation is that you store some water prior to water system flushing for drinking and cooking purposes. It's also okay to use water for showering, etc. Just remember that any water used while the system is stirred up may bring the discoloration into your home plumbing.

**I did my laundry during the system flush and now it is stained, what do I do?**

If the clothes in your washer are stained, do not dry them. Rewash the load when the water is clear. Some customers have used iron removal products in their wash to remove staining. Iron stain removal products can be found in the detergent aisle at most grocery stores or a free bottle can be picked up at the MABL business office.

**Should I take any special precautions with my water softener?**

Yes. It is suggested you bypass your softener during the period your system is being flushed. When the flush is complete, open an outside faucet closest to the point of entry to your home to help clear any discolored water you may have. Then, put the water softener back on-line and manually start the regeneration cycle.

**Do I need to check/run my outside faucet each day of the flush?**

It doesn't hurt to check the outside faucet in the morning. If the water is discolored after running the faucet for several minutes, limit indoor water use.

**The flush is complete; my cold water is clear but my hot water is discolored, what can I do?**

Drain and refill the hot water tank. Please USE CAUTION to prevent burning!

**Who do I contact if I have any additional questions?**

Give us a call. Contact our business office at 717-248-0165