



Riverhead Water District

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RECOMMENDED FLUSHING PROCEDURE FOR COLD WATER LINES

Discolored water may be a result of hydrant use in an area by the Riverhead Water District and or Fire Department. Hydrants are also used by contractors either authorized or unauthorized. The opening and closing of hydrants periodically stir up the sediment that is in the water main. The result of stirring up the system is rusty or discolored water. It is primarily natural iron. It is not harmful to your health.

If you experience discolored water, you should flush your cold water as follows:

1. Begin internal flushing by turning on a **COLD** water outlet; ex: outside water faucet or kitchen faucet. Once this faucet runs clean, you should then open the other cold faucets in the residence to allow any discolored water and sediment to work its way through your pipes.
2. Refrain from turning on the hot water to avoid discolored water from entering your hot water heater.

NOTE: DO NOT USE WASHING MACHINE DURING THIS PROCEDURE.

3. Allow cold water to run out of cold water faucets until water is clean. This usually takes 15 – 20 minutes of continuous running.
4. Make sure that the cold water is clean before using your washing machine.
5. If you do experience discolored water and your laundry is stained as a result, try rewashing the clothes and using more detergent and add rust remover. It is not advisable to attempt to bleach clothes or put them in the dryer.

In some cases, slight discoloration might linger for a few hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water and does not affect the water quality. No health hazards are associated with discolored water from hydrant use or hydrant flushing.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the Riverhead Water District office at 631-727-3205, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.