# FLUSHING NOTICE

The Belleville Water Department will be performing system flushing. This work will include the operation of fire hydrants at flow velocities sufficient to remove naturally occurring minerals that have precipitated out of the water and settled. A hydrant testing and flushing program is very important to the maintenance of the water distribution system because is allows water to flow at a high velocity through the distribution mainlines. This may temporarily discolour the water, so we will be conducting this activity late at night to minimize the effect on consumers. There are no health concerns associated with the minerals that get stirred up, but residents are urged to avoid doing laundry during the flushing operations. The Belleville Water Department will notify residents using the Reverse 911 calling system in advance of the work in their specific areas.

**Hydrant flushing serves the following purposes:**

- Enhances long term water quality by removing sediments from inside the mainline and flushing them out through the hydrant
- Identifies malfunctions of the hydrant and related valve issues
- Helps determine weaknesses in the water distribution system
- Identifies inadequate water volumes and pressures in the mainlines
- Helps determine fire flows at the hydrant

**You may encounter the following conditions during hydrant flushing operations:**

- A temporary drop in water pressure to your residence or place of business
- Rusty brown, or cloudy water (These conditions will subside after the flushing is complete

## After the flushing operation is completed:

- Open the cold water faucets and let the water flow until it is clear, turn off the faucets
- Open the hot water faucets and let the water flow until it is clear, turn off the faucets
- When both hot and cold water are clear, the water is ready for use as normal
- Check the faucet screens for trapped particles
- Wash a load or two of dark-colored clothes first

## FAQ's

### Why is hydrant flushing necessary?

It enhances water quality by removing sediments from inside the mainline and flushing them out through the hydrant; identifies malfunctions of the hydrant and related valves; helps determine weaknesses in the water distribution system; identifies inadequate water volumes and pressures in the mainlines and helps determine locations where flow pressures may require valve inspections.

### What should I do when hydrants are being flushed in my area?

- Mainly, avoid using the dishwasher, washing machine and don't turn on the faucets (hot or cold), wait until the operation is completed
- If you are driving in the work zone where hydrants are being flushed, please drive carefully

### Why does my water look rusty or cloudy after hydrant flushing?

When a hydrant is opened, the water in the mainline will flow out at a high velocity. This creates a scouring action in the pipe and dislodges fine sediment particles that have accumulated in the pipe. The fine sediment mixes with the water, turning the water a cloudy or rusty brown color. This mixture is discharged out of the hydrant. Remember, after the hydrant flushing operation, run your hot and cold faucets to let the water clear before you use it.