

Water Main Flushing



Needham water distribution systems has been in operation for a very long time. The system we use today opened in 1887. Some of our water mains are more than a century old. To address this, Needham Water and Sewer Division has an aggressive capital improvement program that replaces old water mains. By doing this, Water Division maintains a very low rate of water main breaks in Town.

Water that flows through newly relined or replaced mains is cleaner; and just to make sure, Needham Water & Sewer Division regularly flushes parts of its system where standing water might have acquired impurities from sitting in the pipes too long.

Flushing is performed during the spring and is achieved by closing gate valves in the water mains in the street to isolate the water, which is then directed through the hydrant. The water creates a scouring velocity that will remove any material that has settled within the pipes. This flushing continues until the water is clear. The flushed water from the hydrant is directed into the gutters and then into the storm drain.

The purpose of the Water Main Flushing Program is to improve drinking water quality for residents and businesses throughout Needham. The flushing process may cause discolored water and a reduction in pressure. It should be noted that both of these conditions are temporary and not harmful. If, however, either of these conditions persist, please contact Public Works Department at 781-455-7550.

Needham Water & Sewer appreciates your patience as we work to improve the quality of drinking water throughout the Town.