

## Water Flushing Q&A

### Why are hydrants flushed?

Periodically, you will see Harwich Water Department personnel releasing water from hydrants. Hydrant flushing is necessary to test the hydrants to make sure adequate flow and pressure is available. Flushing is also done to remove sediment from the pipes in order to maintain water clarity and quality in the distribution pipes.

### Is my water safe to drink after flushing?

Your water is safe to drink. Occasionally, water becomes discolored after hydrant flushing. If this happens, run your cold water tap for a few minutes until the water clears. If it doesn't clear the first time, wait a few minutes and run the water again. You should avoid washing clothes until the water clears.

Water Main Flushing Program is done also to improve drinking water quality for residents and businesses throughout the Town Of Harwich. 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.

The problem with flushing season is that some of the minerals and sediment being flushed get into your home water system. While not dangerous, this can lead to some ugly, rusty stains in sinks and toilet bowls and especially on your laundry. So the problem then becomes finding a cleaner that will safely get rid of the stains. Because, after all, flushing season will be back again next year.

Having little success with general cleansers, we turned our attention to products made specifically for rust and mineral stains. The most effective products were specially-formulated reducing agents such as Iron Out. It can be found here at the Harwich Water Department at 196 Chatham Rd. We will gladly give you the product for free. Reducing agents work by actually changing the chemistry of iron and rust, breaking it down into a clear solution that can simply be rinsed away. They are safe and can be used on everything from toilet bowls to the kitchen sink. You can also safely add them to water softeners, dishwashers and washing machines. They will fight the rust and help prevent further stains.

What's more, we found Iron Out was equally as effective at combating iron and rust stains on laundry. Used as an additive along with laundry detergent, it safely eliminated rusty stains on all washable fabrics.