

To ensure water quality is maintained at its optimal level and to properly maintain the Town's water distribution lines, periodic flushing is necessary to get rid of deposits that form inside the water mains. Over time, sediment builds up on the inside of water distribution pipes, narrowing the path that water can flow through to individual homes and businesses. Flushing stirs up water in the mains and forces water and sediments out. By widening the path that water can flow through the mains, the flushing program will improve water flow, helping the Town to better meet the needs of Public Safety fire personnel. Another goal of the flushing program is to make sure that all water supply systems work, including pumps, storage tanks, mains, valves, and hydrants.

Will flushing be done in my neighborhood?

Locations of flushing will occur in phases. Watch for signs in your neighborhood as well as your local newspapers, our website, channel 18, and voice broadcast messaging. Water service should not be interrupted. If the water appears discolored we recommend that you give it a few hours to clear up then run your cold water faucet for a few minutes to make sure that the water is cleared. Routine flushing of water lines will continue throughout the year.

Why are we flushing?

Because water mains are sized to allow adequate and safe flows for fire protection, water typically is moving through the underground pipes at less than 2 miles per hour. This slow movement allows mineral deposits, to build up and accumulate in pipes over time. The buildup can restrict water flow in the pipes and contributes to corrosion and water color problems. Periodic flushing of water pipes removes the mineral deposits which helps maintain our Town's infrastructure and assures consistent high quality water.

Is flushing a waste of water?

No! The amount and cost of water used in flushing is a small price to pay compared to benefits of assuring the quality of your water and maintaining our infrastructure.

How will I be affected?

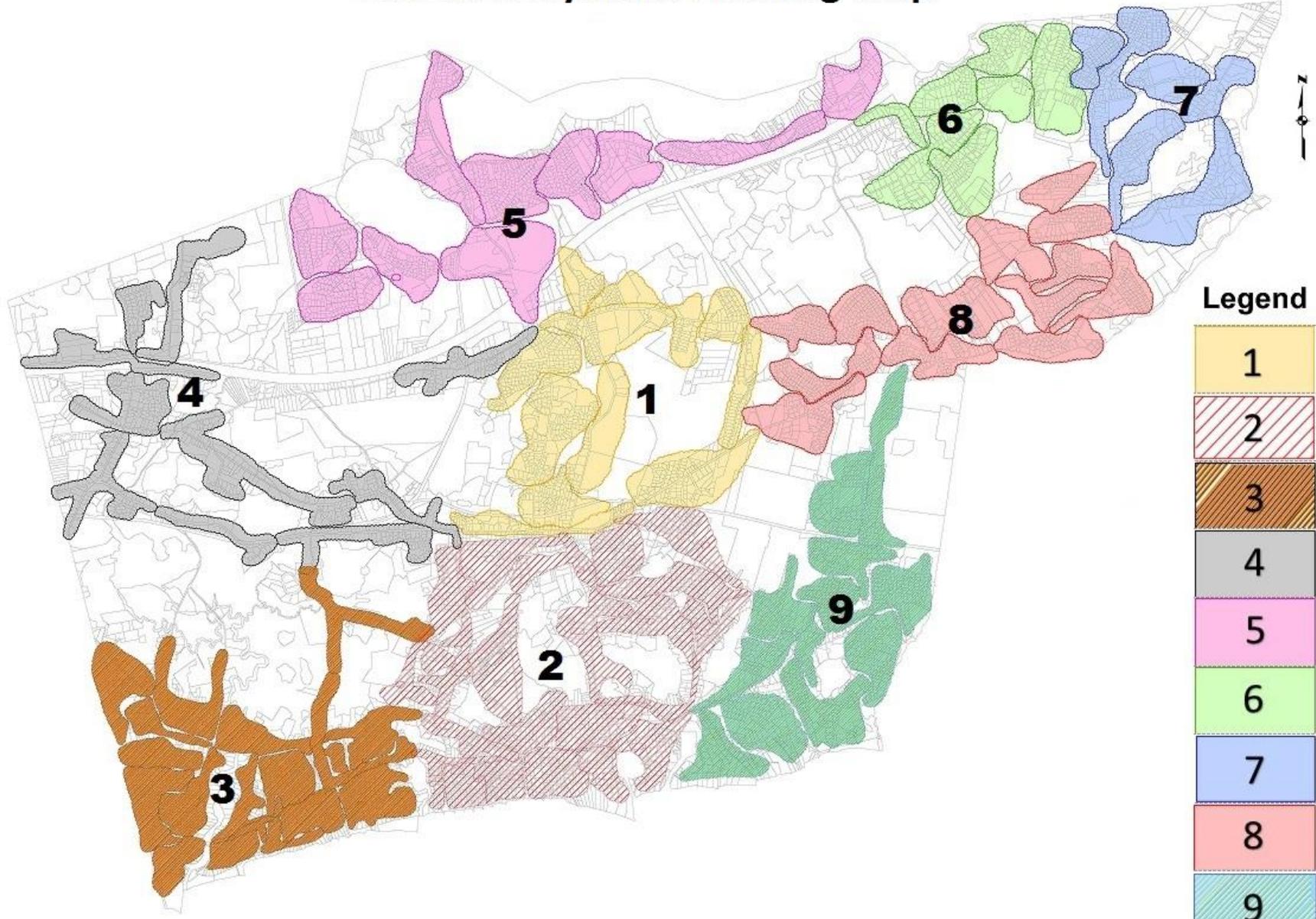
You will probably not even be aware that flushing is taking place in your neighborhood. Flushing generally occurs Monday thru Friday. Times and dates will be posted on our website. Select hydrants will be opened for water pipe flushing. While the hydrants are open, the customers on that block may experience discolored water or a small drop in water pressure, however; your water service should not be interrupted. If you have no water pressure, please notify Harwich Water at 508-432-0304 as soon as possible.

In addition, you may also notice a chlorine taste and odor in your drinking water as additional chlorine is utilized to facilitate an effective flushing program. Therefore, if you are especially sensitive to the taste and odor of chlorine, try keeping an open container of drinking water in your refrigerator. This will enable the chlorine to dissipate thus reducing the chlorine taste. Remember – drinking water has a shelf life! Change out the water in your refrigerated container weekly.

What do I do if I am experiencing discolored water?

Should a reddish, yellow or brown tint to the water appear, do not be alarmed. It is recommended you do not use the water or do laundry for about two hours. After you have waited, run your faucets for a few minutes to make sure the water is clear at which time you resume normal water use. If the water does not clear within a few hours, please notify the Harwich Water at 508-432-0304.

Fall 2016 Hydrant Flushing Map



Legend

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

ALL PHASES

WATER DISTRIBUTION FLUSHING PROGRAM

TOWN OF HARWICH