

Butler County Water and Sewer - Unidirectional Flushing Program

The Butler County Water and Sewer Department will be implementing the next phase of its annual flushing program starting the month of April 2017. The purpose of the flushing program is to enhance water quality within the distribution system piping network while minimizing and/or eliminating customer taste, odor and discolorization complaints and pressure disruptions. Unidirectional flushing is a systematic way of routing fresh drinking water through the distribution piping at high velocities to create a scouring effect on the interior side walls of the piping conduit. This scouring effect removes any possible sediment, deposits, biofilms and any disinfectant- reducing agents that may be present within the distribution system piping.

Due to the possible change in flow characteristics in the water distribution mains some minor inconveniences may occur. Customers may experience the following:

- **Rusty or Brown Water** - occurs when rust deposits are stirred up by a change in water flow direction and pressure. If this occurs, run cold water for two to three minutes until water runs clear. If discolorization becomes a problem with laundry, keep clothing moist and use an all-purpose rust and stain remover product from your local retail store. Examples include Rit Rust Remover and Iron-Out Powder.
- **Milky, Cloudy or Bubbly Water** - usually is the result of dissolved air bubbles within the water and is harmless. Should dissipate within seconds.
- **Small Particles or Sediment in Water** - the result of scouring the interior side walls of water distribution mains at high velocities.
- **Pressure Fluctuations** - may result due to routing of fresh water and flowing of fire hydrants at high flow rates.

Please be aware that your local fire department also implements a fire hydrant maintenance and flushing program only to check the operation of the fire hydrants. For a copy of their flushing schedule, please contact your local township department.

If you have questions concerning BCWS' Unidirectional Flushing Program, please contact (513) 887-3686.