



Why is my water rusty?

Road construction, water main breaks, hydrant flushing or hydrant use by the Fire Department are the main causes of rusty water. When fire hydrants are used it forces the water through at a higher rate that may shake up the sediment of iron deposits in the pipes causing the water to become reddish in color.

What do I do if I am experiencing discolored water?

Should a yellow, brown, or reddish tint appear in the water, do not be alarmed. It is recommended you **do not** use the water or do laundry for about two hours. After that time, run your **cold** water for a few minutes to make sure the water is clear. Try to refrain from using hot water until your cold water is clear. When the cold water runs clear you may resume normal water use. NOTE: Trying to run the faucet for an extended time will not “flush out” the sediment. The sediment must settle in the pipes which just takes time. Drinking tinted water or showering in it is not harmful. The City encourages residents to invest in water softeners that help to mitigate the effects of hard water.

If you have washed clothes and they have been discolored, Culligan water suggests the following:

Purchase 6 ounces of oxalic acid, available at a local drug store. **ALWAYS USE RUBBER GLOVES and KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN AND ANIMALS.** Use double tubs. In one tub, fill with 8 gallons of water. Add 4 tablespoons of oxalic acid. In the other tub, fill with 8 gallons of water and add 4-5 tablespoons of baking soda. Put the clothes into the acid solution for 2 minutes. Wring out by hand (USE GLOVES). Then, put the clothes into the tub with the baking soda solution for 2-3 minutes and wring out by hand. Finally, rinse with fresh water and re-wash as normal.

Another remedy is to add a solution of 4 teaspoons of cream of tartar dissolved in 1 pint of clear water to your wash and proceed as normal. There are also products such as *Iron Out* to remove the discoloration from clothing.

The City places notices in The Laker when hydrant flushing will take place, but there are many other times during construction, water main breaks or fires that there is not time to put out notices to residents of potentially discolored water. The City appreciates the cooperation and patience of residents during these times.