



Why is my water rusty?

It is road construction season and with that can come rusty water. One reason for this is that when the fire hydrants are used for their projects it forces the water through at a high rate and may shake up the sediment of iron deposits in the pipes and then the water becomes reddish in color. This is similar to when the hydrants are flushed twice each year or when there is a water main break.

Another reason for rusty water may come from use of the hydrants by the fire department. Again, the water is forced through at a high rate of speed and loosens the iron deposits.

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.