

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Annual water main flushing program begins March 20, 2023

### Summary

The City of Nanaimo's Engineering and Public Works department begins its annual water main flushing program on March 20, 2023. Flushing is expected to start in the south end of Nanaimo. While this program is underway water users may see short periods of low pressure and water may be discoloured. Water discolouration during the flushing program is temporary and is not a health hazard.

For more information about the water main flushing program, visit [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/waterflushing](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/waterflushing).

*Strategic Link:* Annual flushing of the City's water mains supports cost effective service delivery.

### Key Points

- Flushing will begin in south Nanaimo and move north until the week of May 19, when the project is expected to be complete.
- City crews will flush water supply mains from the South Fork dam to the water treatment plant, and then shift to the in-town network of water mains. Clean drinking water is flushed at a high velocity through water mains to ensure that all piping is refreshed and any minor sediment within the pipes is removed.
- If water users notice a change in water appearance such as discolouration, they should clear their water lines by running cold water until it runs clear. Any discolouration in water residents may experience during the flushing program is temporary and not a health hazard.
- Anyone with a weakened immune system should reference information on Island Health's website.

### Quotes

"Sediment can collect over time in water mains and flushing them helps to clear it out. This is a routine maintenance activity to ensure continued clean, healthy water is delivered to everyone."

Bill Sims  
General Manager, Public Works and Engineering  
City of Nanaimo

### Quick Facts

- Running cold water to clear any discolouration instead of hot water reduces energy usage. It also avoids trapping sediment in your hot water tank.

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