

Lehigh County Authority – Allentown Division

2023 Flushing Program

In our effort to provide our customers with high quality drinking water, Lehigh County Authority (LCA) maintains a water main flushing program. During flushing operations, fire hydrants and blow-offs are systematically opened around the district and water is allowed to flow quickly through the pipes. This increased velocity scours and cleans the pipe walls, flushes sediment from the mainline pipes, and removes aging water from the distribution system. It also verifies the proper operation of hydrants and valves, maintains firefighting capability, and ultimately improves water quality.

When and where will LCA be conducting water system flushing?

LCA's crews flush neighborhoods on a regular rotation. We will be posting a notice in our quarterly billing newsletter and on our website at www.lehighcountyauthority.org. A tentative flushing schedule for 2023 is shown on page 2.

Customer Information:

Some key elements to be included in the customer notification about LCA's flushing program are shown below:

What should you do when LCA is flushing in your area?

If you see a crew flushing a hydrant on your street, *avoid running tap water, using the washing machine, or running the dishwasher until the flushing is complete* to avoid drawing discolored water into your home plumbing. If possible, completely avoid using your hot water as this may draw discolored water into your hot water heater allowing the discoloration to persist for long periods of time.

Safety Notice: If you see hydrant flushing crews working in the area, please drive carefully and treat them like any other road construction crew.

What should you do after flushing in your area is completed?

After the flushing has completed in your area, turn on your cold-water tap. If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes before you turn on your cold water tap again. Running the tap for a few minutes will allow new water to work its way into your pipes. Please be aware that in some cases, there may be slight discoloration of the water for a few hours. If doing laundry after flushing, start with a dark load on cold water. If the pressure or volume of the water seems low, check your faucet screens for trapped particles.

Brown Water Notice: Discoloration of your water after system flushing only affects the appearance of the water. There is no health risk associated with the discoloration of water after system flushing. However, if brown water persists for a long period of time after system flushing is completed (more than a few hours), feel free to contact LCA at 610-437-7515.

2023 Flushing Schedule:

The 2023 flushing schedule is shown below and should be considered as tentative depending on the weather.

March 13th – March 26th: Ward 3 and Ward 13 (96 hydrants)

Center City, south of Hamilton, between 7th and 19th Streets

March 27th – April 9th: Ward 18 (90 hydrants)

West Allentown, south of Hamilton, west of 19th Street

April 10th – April 23rd: Ward 7 and Ward 11 (153 hydrants)

Center City, north of Hamilton, between 9th and 26th Street

April 24th – May 14th: Ward 17 (196 hydrants)

West Allentown, north of Hamilton, west of 22nd Street

May 15th – May 28th: Ward 8 and Ward 11 (98 hydrants)

North Allentown, north of Gordon Street, between 7th and 22nd Streets

May 29th – June 18th: Ward 12 (182 hydrants)

South Allentown, south of the Little Lehigh Creek and west of the railroad tracks,
From Trout Creek Park to Bicentennial Park and in the Queen City Airport area

June 19th – July 2nd: Ward 1, 2, 5 and 4 (79 hydrants)

Center City, both north and south of Hamilton, between 4th and 9th Streets

July 3rd – July 9th: Ward 10 (65 hydrants)

North Allentown, east of 7th Street, between Liberty Street and Sumner Avenue

July 10th – July 23rd: Ward 8 (100 hydrants)

North Allentown, west of 7th Street, between Liberty Street and Sumner Avenue

July 24th – July 30th: Ward 9 and Ward 6 (77 hydrants)

Center City, north of Hamilton, east of Law Street and following north up along the Lehigh River

July 31st – August 13th: Ward 14 (97 hydrants)

East Allentown, east of the Lehigh River, from Keck Park north up to the East Side Fire Station

***August 14th – September 3rd: Ward 15 (Minus the high elevation system) (225 hydrants)**

East Allentown, north and east of the East Side Fire station, and then south toward the former Allentown State Hospital location

***September 4th – September 10th: Ward 16 (Minus the high elevation system) (73 hydrants)**

South Allentown, south of the Lehigh River and east of the railroad tracks, south down to Chapel Avenue

***September 11th – October 1st: Ward 19 (Minus the high elevation system) (183 hydrants)**

South Allentown, south and east of Trout Creek Park, down to the South Mountain Reservoir and Park area.

*After these areas are completed the high elevation system will be flushed at nighttime from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. There are 105 hydrants in these areas, which include Ward 15, 16, 19 and 28th St. The high elevation hydrants in the system are silver and black in color.