

City of Poulsbo

Office of Mayor Rebecca Erickson



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Discolored Water Issues

Recently, there have been a few discolored water events at various locations within the City of Poulsbo. Public Works has determined the cause is from manganese in the water. Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral in some of the City's wells but is not harmful and is purely an aesthetic issue in the water.

The City's Water Department has protocols in place to help minimize the impacts of discolored water to residents and businesses. These protocols within the city limits include:

- Flushing water mains every six months to keep discolored water events to a minimum.
- Flushing water mains between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. to allow minerals to settle in the water and clear up with minimal impact to customers. However, there are times when water flow increases significantly and results in a widescale dirty water event.
- If discolored water affects clothes while doing laundry, please contact Public Works. A bottle of Red Be Gone, a product that will remove any discoloring caused by manganese, will be provided.

For customers experiencing discolored water, Public Works recommends turning on all cold-water faucets at the same time and running them for a few minutes. Generally, if this is a localized event in certain pipes and waterlines, the water should clear up within a few minutes. If not, please notify Public Works and a technician will be dispatched to investigate the issue.

The City has recently completed construction of a new water treatment plant at the Lincoln Hill well, which primarily provides water to Poulsbo's east side and will remove manganese from the water before it enters the distribution system. The Water Department will also be cleaning the water tank and distribution lines of residual manganese on the east side of the City during the next couple months. By the end of 2018, the manganese issues on Poulsbo's east side should be minimal if not non-existent.

Another treatment plant is scheduled for construction in 2019 to serve the City's west side, which includes the Olhava and Viking Avenue neighborhoods.

Please direct any questions or concerns to the Poulsbo Public Works Department at 360-779-4078 or publicworks@cityofpoulsbo.com.

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