

RECYCLE NEWS BITS

(excerpts from US-EPA “12 Tips for Reducing Solid Waste”)

Tip 3: Consider Reusable Products

Many products are designed to be used more than once. Reusable products and containers often result in less waste. This helps reduce the cost of managing solid waste and often conserves materials and resources. (Remember, reusable containers for food must be carefully cleaned to ensure proper hygiene.)

🐾 A sturdy mug or cup can be washed and used time and again. Many people bring their own mugs to work, meetings, and conferences.

🐾 Sturdy and washable utensils and tableware can be used at home and for picnics, outdoor parties, and potlucks.

🐾 At work, see if "recharged" cartridges for laser printers, copiers, and fax machines are available. They not only reduce waste, but also typically save money.

🐾 Cloth napkins, sponges, or dishcloths can be used around the house. These can be washed over and over again.

🐾 Look for items that are available in refillable containers. For example, some bottles and jugs for beverages and detergents are made to be refilled and reused, either by the consumer or the manufacturer.

🐾 When using single-use items, remember to take only what is needed. For example, take only one napkin or ketchup packet if more are not needed.

🐾 Remember, if your goal is to reduce solid waste, think about reusables.



Fire Hydrant Flushing

Residents may observe that Junction City Public Works crews working at fire hydrants allow water to run into the street. It may appear we are ignoring our own water conservation philosophy. However, the process of periodically “flushing” fire hydrants is an important preventative maintenance activity to insure the integrity of the water system and deliver the highest quality water to our customers.

Hydrant flushing serves the following purposes:

- Flushes sediments from mainline pipes, which enhances water quality.
- Verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and valves.
- Aids in determining weaknesses in the water system.
- Helps to identify closed valves and weak flows in the water main.
- Verifies ample water flow for fire fighting.

Notifications: One week prior to flushing a notice will be mailed to notify customers that our crews will be working in the area.

Cloudy Water: As a result of hydrant flushing, residents in the immediate vicinity may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration is harmless, and generally consists of precipitates which do not affect the safety of water consumption. If you notice that your water is discolored, you can clear this issue by running all water faucets outside your home for approximately 15 minutes, or until the water clears. If water does not clear, please contact Public Works at 541-998-3125 or City Hall at 541-998-2153. **Note: it is important you do not wash laundry while water is cloudy or discolored. Please wait until water is clear before laundering. The City does not accept responsibility for clothing reported as soiled or damaged when washed in cloudy or discolored water.*

Q: Why is my water pressure low?

A: Your water pressure may be low due to the flushing of fire hydrants, which lowers the water pressure in the area that is being tested. This issue will be rectified once flushing is completed.

Q: Why is my water discolored?

A: Water discoloration or turbid water is caused by the stirring of sedimentation in the water main when hydrants are flushed.

Q: What should I do about the discolored water?

A: Run all faucets outside your home for approximately 15 minutes or until water clears.

Q: If water is discolored, is it safe for consumption?

A: Yes. The discoloration is caused by harmless mineral deposits which settle in the water main and are stirred during the flushing activity. The water is harmless due to the amount of chlorine that is flushed through the lines.

Q: Is it OK to wash laundry when water is discolored?

A: No. Please run all water outside the home for approximately 15 minutes or until water clears. You should check water clarity by capturing a sample from the washing machine in a clear glass or container. If water is cloudy or discolored, please do not wash laundry.

Q: Is the Public Works department the only one that flushes the lines?

A: No, the Fire department is required to flush hydrants when they are testing hydrants to make sure adequate flow and pressure is available.

Q: Who should I contact if water does not clear after recommended precautions or for more information?

A: Call Junction City Public Works at 541-998-3125 or City Hall at 541-998-2153