
City begins annual watermain swabbing program next week

Barrie, ON—The City of Barrie will be swabbing approximately 38 kilometers of watermain from May 15 to 27. This project will occur day and night, including weekends.

Watermain swabbing is used to remove sediment that builds up in watermains over time. This sediment is derived from naturally occurring minerals in the water and gradually builds up on pipe walls. Some residences and businesses will experience water outages as part of the swabbing process; anyone affected will receive written notice in advance of any outage. Some homes and businesses may experience more than one outage, due to their location, such as corner lots or lots close to watermain valves.

The areas affected are:

1. Edgehill Dr. south to Tiffin St. and from Ferndale Dr. N, west to the city limits (excluding Dunlop St. W west of Ferndale Dr).
2. Minet's Point Rd. to Bay Lane, Hurst Dr. north to Kempview Lane and Hurst Dr. south to Wallwin's Way.
3. Little Ave. south to Big Bay Point Rd., Huronia Rd. east to Yonge St.
4. Yonge St. from Huronia Rd. to MacLaren Ave.
5. Welham Rd. north of Big Bay Point Road, Hamilton Rd., Truman Rd. and Mayes Crt.

Residents and businesses may experience some water discoloration for short durations following outages and should follow these guidelines once watermain swabbing is completed:

- Turn on a **cold** water tap and let the water run for a few minutes.
- Do not choose a tap that has a water filter connected to it, or the sediment may clog your filter.
- Do not use a hot water tap because it could draw sediment into your hot water tank.
- Collect some water in a light-coloured cup or container to see if it is clear. Proceed to use the water if it is clear. If the water doesn't clear in 5 minutes, wait 30 minutes and try again.
- During the outage, water pressure will come and go, but please do not run any water during this time period as it could cause large quantities of sediment to plug your service/plumbing/appliances etc.

Apartment property managers, landlords and business operators:

- Turn on a **cold** water tap near the water shut off valve (e.g. a tap in the mop sink in the maintenance room) and let the water run for a few minutes.
- Collect some water in a light-coloured cup or container to see if it is clear.
- Restore water to the rest of the building only when the water is clear.

Cloudy water concerns:

Water is cloudy because air captured in the water forms tiny bubbles. These bubbles are harmless and will disappear if the water sits for a few minutes. If water is still discoloured after two to three hours, call the City of Barrie Water Operations Branch at **705-792-7920**.

Water Operations staff will be monitoring the water clarity and chlorine residual in the watermain throughout the duration of this project. For more information and to see the affected areas on a map, refer to Water Distribution Infrastructure Maintenance via barrie.ca/WaterServices.

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