

Why does my water look rusty? What should I do?

Discolored water could have several causes. Throughout the distribution system you can occasionally experience reddish yellow or brown color to your water. This is usually caused by increased flow through water mains, or through your own plumbing which dislodges iron deposits. This can be caused by any of the following reasons:

1. A hydrant in your neighborhood recently being used for construction or to fight a house fire or to flush hydrants in your area for routine maintenance or fire flow testing by the fire department.
2. A water main break in the vicinity.
3. It could also be caused by just an overall increase in demand of the water supply throughout the system.
4. If water is only looking rusty coming from certain faucets in your home and not others, or it is only present when you use hot water, it can be an issue inside your homes plumbing. In that instance you may need to consult a plumber to resolve the issue.

Though rusty water may look and taste unpleasant, it is not generally a health concern. Iron in water is not a sign of harmful bacteria or lead, which are hazards. The limits set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for iron in drinking water are based on aesthetics (taste, odor, color), not safety concerns. The City of Huber Heights meets all drinking water standards including those set for iron.

If you notice your water is discolored do not do laundry until the water runs clear, if you have already started doing laundry do not dry any clothing until the disturbance is over. When the water runs clear, re-wash the items before drying. Your local grocery carries “Iron Out” and other similar products that will remove discoloration from clothing if it is stained.

Most importantly, if you experience a rust color in your water, first make sure your hot water faucet is off and run the cold water for at least 5 minutes to see if it runs clear, if not please call the water department, giving your location, so someone can respond and help you determine if you need a plumber or if flushing a hydrant near your home can help etc. The emergency # for the water department after hours is the same as the day time number which is 937-233-3292.