

# WPN Guide: Hydrant Flushing

A general guide for flushing fire hydrants in potable water distribution systems.

## Basic Procedure

1. Install a flushing diffuser.
2. Open the hydrant slowly, gradually increasing to maximum flow.
3. At maximum flow, slowly lower flow rate to half flow.
4. Flush for 10 minutes, then slowly close hydrant until flow has stopped.
5. Check operating nut for tightness. Lube or repair as needed.
6. Repairs needed: Put an “Out of Service” bag over the hydrant.
7. Follow the hydrant model links in the WPN App for more information about maintenance, repair and parts for the hydrant.



## Measurements and Observations

**Water Pressure:** Record pressure at the hydrant and, optionally, at a point downstream.

**Turbidity:** Use a turbidity meter to measure water clarity, recorded in NTUs.

**pH:** Use a pH meter in the field to measure the alkalinity / acidity of the water.

**Chlorine (chloramine, chlorine dioxide):** Use either a chlorine meter or disposable strips to measure chlorine levels, recorded in mg/L.

**Water Aesthetics:** Record observations of color, odor or taste for the water, including corrosion / rust.

**Leak Sounds:** Check for visible / audible indications of leaks at the hydrant.

**Notes:** Add a note to record other items of interest, such as valve operation, physical condition of the hydrant, repairs needed, and so on.

Follow the EPA links in the WPN App for more information about turbidity, pH, chlorine, and water aesthetics.