



UPDATE ON COLOURED WATER IN COBDEN

For Immediate Release

Update on the Cobden Drinking Water System (September 1, 2026)

Current Conditions

OCWA will continue conducting more intensive flushing of the Cobden water distribution system today using a process called directional flushing as well as scour flushing, to help remove manganese and other sediment that may have accumulated on pipe walls during the period of elevated manganese. This flushing program is expected to continue over the next several days.

Residents are likely to notice increased discoloured water while flushing is underway, particularly when work begins in a new area of the distribution system. Reductions in water pressure may also occur; however, water service will remain on and any reduction in pressure will be temporary.

Unlike conventional flushing, where hydrants may be opened in a broader area, directional flushing isolates specific sections of the watermain and directs water at high velocities through targeted pipe segments. By closing and opening selected valves and hydrants, operators create a one-way flow path that generates enough velocity to scour material, like accumulated manganese, from the pipe walls and carry it out through hydrants.

Residents that observe coloured water from their taps are advised to run cold water until it clears. If water does not clear after one hour of running cold water, please contact the Township at 613-646-2282 ext. 127, email dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca or submit a report through the Township Feedback page www.whitewaterregion.ca/feedback. After-hours concerns can be reported online or by calling the Township's after-hours line at 613-647-3333.

Whitewater Region Council and staff appreciate residents' patience and understanding as we continue our efforts to address the drinking water discolouration issue.

Presentation

Township staff and OCWA will provide an informational update at the September 2nd Council meeting. The presentation is intended to share information with Council and the public and can be viewed on the Township's YouTube channel at Township of Whitewater Region YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/@twpwhitewaterregion.

Residents who have questions or would like a topic addressed during the presentation are encouraged to contact Deanna Nicholson at (613) 646-2282 ext. 127 or by email at dnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca before Monday, August 31 at 4:00pm.

More information

Information regarding manganese in drinking water can be found on the Renfrew County and District Health Unit website at www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/safe-water/.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document about Manganese is available on the Township's website.

Residents are encouraged to subscribe to Township notifications to receive updates directly by scanning the QR Code.



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Additional Information:

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