

immediately wash the clothes again using a rust remover product, available in most supermarkets or requested free from the Commission by calling **WSSC** at **(301) 206-4001** or **1-800-634-8400**, **weekdays, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.** It is best if the clothes do not dry prior to using this type of product.



20% post-consumer content



**Washington Suburban
Sanitary Commission**

WSSC is the 8th largest water and wastewater utility in the nation, serving nearly 1.8 million residents in Prince George's and Montgomery counties. We operate and maintain eight water and wastewater plants, over 5,500 miles of fresh water pipeline and over 5,300 miles of sewer pipeline. In our 90-year history, our drinking water has always met or exceeded federal standards.

www.wsscwater.com

CUSTOMER RELATIONS OFFICE
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**Washington Suburban
Sanitary Commission**

Discolored Water

Causes and Cures





Discolored water is water containing an accumulation of iron and manganese sediment from rusting cast iron pipes and/or from a buildup of chemical deposits on the pipes.

Water flowing at a steady, even pace in one direction will not disturb these deposits. If the water suddenly flows very fast or reverses direction, the sediment and deposits are stirred up, resulting in discoloration.

CAUSES OF DISCOLORED WATER

A broken water main may allow water to rush out of the pipe, temporarily increasing the flow and disturbing the sediment. Valves closed to isolate a broken water main or to make repairs may disturb the flow in nearby water mains causing a temporary increase or reversal of flow stirring up the sediment.

Fully opening a fire hydrant for firefighting purposes, or flushing a water line can cause a sudden increase in flow, which may temporarily cause discoloration. New water mains added to the system might cause a change in established flow patterns and cause temporary discoloration.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Discolored water due to sedimentation poses no health hazard. It is free from harmful bacteria and safe for all household uses, such as showering, cooking, flushing of toilets, etc. You can drink the discolored water, but it may taste different. WSSC does not recommend that you use discolored water to prepare baby formula.



HOUSEHOLD USES FOR DISCOLORED WATER

Discolored water can be used for showering, flushing toilets, cleaning floors, etc. However, you should **NOT** wash clothes in your washing machine during this time. Clothing may stain. If clothing does get stained,