

Information for Hoosick Falls Public Water Users

Flush Your Indoor Plumbing Starting Today

The water mains in your neighborhood have been flushed with filtered water to remove residual PFOA. You should flush your indoor plumbing, fixtures, and appliances by following these steps. You do not have to do all of these steps right away. You can flush when it is convenient.

Step 1. Flush cold water system

- ▶ Turn on all indoor cold water faucets, including every sink, shower, and bathtub.
- ▶ Run the cold water for **5 minutes**.
- ▶ Shut off all indoor cold water faucets.

Step 2. Flush hot water system

- ▶ Turn on all indoor hot water faucets, including every sink, shower, and bathtub.
- ▶ Run hot water for **15 minutes**. This will replace the water in your hot water tank with filtered water.
- ▶ Shut off all indoor hot water faucets.

Step 3. Flush fixtures and appliances

- ▶ **Flush each toilet at least once.** There is no limit on using or flushing toilets during the flushing process.
- ▶ **Refrigerator water lines and ice makers:**
 - Flush refrigerator water dispensers for **5 minutes**.
 - Consider replacing any refrigerator water filters. Follow manufacturer instructions.
 - Discard your ice from your freezer. If you have an automatic ice maker, make/discard 5 batches of ice.
 - Clean the ice container with warm water and soap before using it.
- ▶ **Other water-using appliances:**
 - Run dishwashers, washing machines, and other appliances through one cycle while empty.
 - Discard water and clean coffee makers, humidifiers, oral, medical or health care devices, or other appliances that may have had contact with contaminated water. Contact the manufacturer if you have questions about cleaning.

Step 4. In-home filtration units, filtered water dispensers (point of use devices), and water softeners

- ▶ Take steps to clean water filtration systems, backwash (regenerate) water softeners, and consider replacing filters. Follow manufacturer instructions.



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Information about Hoosick Falls Public Water Temporary Filtration and Flushing

The temporary filtration system has been installed and is now operating on the Village of Hoosick Falls municipal water supply. The State Department of Health has been working with the Village of Hoosick Falls to flush and clean the water treatment plant, water mains and storage tanks.

The flushing of the Village water system is more extensive than is routinely done as part of treatment plant maintenance.

The water mains in the neighborhoods served by the Village water system have been assigned zones. **Flushing is occurring on a zone by zone basis.**

The staged flushing will help to remove PFOA from the Village's water system. It will also help manage the process to avoid temporary water shortages and overwhelming the sewer system.

You might notice sediment and some discoloration of the water. You may experience water pressure issues during flushing. **This is normal for any flushing process and should not be cause for concern.**

The recommendation to use bottled water or in-home filtered water remains in place until further notice. Free bottled water continues to be available to Village and Town residents at Tops Friendly Markets on Route 22.

More Information

NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Water Supply Protection: bpwsp@health.ny.gov, 518-402-7650 (Weekday work hours)

Village of Hoosick Falls: www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/default.htm, 518-686-7072 (Weekday work hours)

Hoosick Falls Hotline: 800-801-8092 (Monday - Friday: 9 am - 8 pm; Saturday: 9 am - 3 pm)



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2/26/16

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Village of Hoosick Falls Public Water Supply Temporary Filtration and Flushing

This information is for people on the Village of Hoosick Falls public water supply.

- The Village is taking steps to filter drinking water and flush perfluorooctanic acid (PFOA) from the water treatment plant and distribution system.
- Instructions for people on the public water supply about flushing their indoor pipes and plumbing is being distributed to homes and businesses on a zone-by-zone basis.
- Please do not flush your indoor plumbing until you receive instructions called **Information for Hoosick Falls Public Water Users: Flush Your Indoor Plumbing Starting Today.**

Continue to follow the recommendation to use bottled water or in-home filtered water until further notice. Free bottled water continues to be available to Village and Town residents at Tops Friendly Markets on Route 22.

Temporary Filtration and Flushing of the Public Water System

The temporary filtration system has been installed and is operating on the Village of Hoosick Falls municipal water supply. The State Department of Health is working with the Village to flush and clean the water treatment plant, water mains, and storage tanks.

The flushing of the Village water system is more extensive than is routinely done as part of treatment plant maintenance. The water mains in the neighborhoods served by the Village water system have been assigned zones. Flushing will occur in each zone followed by water testing for PFOA. This process is expected to take a couple of weeks.

The staged flushing will help to remove PFOA from the Village's water system. It will also help manage the process so that everyone on the system does not flush at the same time. This will avoid temporary water shortages and overwhelming the sewer system.

You might notice some sediment and discoloration of the water. You may experience water pressure issues during flushing. This is normal for any flushing process and should not be a cause of concern.

When notified, people on the public water supply should flush their indoor plumbing, fixtures, and appliances. You will be provided with instructions at that time about how to flush your home or business.

Ongoing Plans for the Village Water Supply

The temporary filtration system is filtering the water of PFOA while long-term plans for the Village water supply are underway. The temporary system uses granular activated carbon filters, the best available technology to remove PFOA from drinking water. A permanent system requires other changes at the water treatment plant that would have delayed filtering the water. While steps are underway to install the long-term granular activated carbon filtration system, the temporary system will provide interim treatment. All public water systems monitor, treat, and disinfect the water for their customers.

The State also has begun planning for a possible alternate water supply for Village public water. This would be in addition to the long-term granular activated carbon filtration system Saint-Gobain has agreed to install at the Village water treatment plant.



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Temporary Filtration and Flushing: Frequently Asked Questions

- ▶ **How will I know when or how to flush my indoor plumbing?** You can flush your indoor plumbing anytime after you receive a notice called **Information for Hoosick Falls Public Water Users: Flush Your Indoor Plumbing Starting Today**. At that time, you will receive instructions for flushing indoor hot and cold water plumbing, fixtures, and appliances. You can also check with the Village www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/default.html.
- ▶ **Do I have to flush my indoor plumbing right away?** No. You can flush when it is convenient. As you use the water for washing and bathing, your plumbing will be drawing in filtered water from the water mains, which will slowly flush your system. The active flushing is an extra step to help make this happen more quickly. Please continue to follow the recommendation to use bottled water or in-home filtered water for drinking and food preparation until otherwise notified.
- ▶ **How will I know when the recommendation to use bottled water for drinking or cooking no longer applies?** The State Health Department will announce when water testing indicates that the recommendation to use bottled water is no longer needed. You can also check with the Village www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/default.html.
- ▶ **Will bottled water continue to be available to people in the Village and Town?** Yes. Bottled water will be provided until further notice at no cost at Tops Friendly Market on Route 22.
- ▶ **The instructions for flushing are for indoor plumbing; what about outside spigots?** There is no need to flush your outdoor spigot. If you choose to do so, run the water for about one minute, either onto the ground or into a small pail which can then be emptied into a sink or toilet in your home.
- ▶ **If my neighbors don't flush, will that affect my water?** If you are in a single unit home or building, your water runs through an individual connection and would not be affected.
- ▶ **Do I need to clean my hot water tank?** Follow the instructions you receive to flush your hot water system. This will replace the water in your hot water tank with filtered water. You do not need to take any additional steps because of PFOA. All hot water tanks do require periodic draining and cleaning per manufacturer recommendations. Always follow manufacturer instructions when draining and cleaning a hot water tank.
- ▶ **How do I dispose of any filters from in-home water filtration systems?** According to the DEC, filters can be disposed of in your regular trash or recycled by following manufacturer instructions.
- ▶ **Where will the flushed water go?** Flushed water from indoor plumbing will go to the sanitary sewer system, which will carry the water to the Village Wastewater Treatment Plant prior to its discharge to the Hoosic River. DEC has been monitoring the river water.

More Information

- ▶ NYS DOH, Bureau of Water Supply Protection: bpwsp@health.ny.gov, 518-402-7650 (Weekday work hours)
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