

Several people in Southwest Oakland Township have called us with concerns about discolored water. The discolored water is caused by groundwater that contains iron. The problem often becomes more pronounced on hot, dry days because of increased lawn sprinkling demands. Iron is a nuisance, but it's not a health hazard.

Here at the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's office, we do our best to minimize the problem by flushing water mains twice a year to remove iron sediment that may have accumulated. We also perform low-pressure water flushes to remove iron sediment that has built up in the service lines to individual homes. Additionally, we operate our pumps in a particular order in an attempt to maintain consistent flow directions.

You can do your part to help as well. If your lawn irrigation system is operated by a timer, set it to run at times other than from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Those two timeframes represent the highest demand periods. Operating your sprinkler during these times will cause additional wells to run, can change the direction of the water flow while increasing the water velocity flowing through water mains. All of that tends to stir up iron in the water system and contribute to the discoloration problem.

If yours is the only household in your area experiencing a problem with rust-colored water, there could be iron sediment in your house service line. One way to eliminate the rust color in your water is to have a low-pressure flush at your home. If you haven't had a low-pressure flush performed in more than a year, you may want to consider scheduling one. Give us a call at 248-858-0487 to schedule your free, low-pressure flush.