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October 1, 2024

## Notice: Watermain swabbing scheduled for Coldwater in October

To ensure the highest quality of water possible for our community the Township of Severn will be completing a watermain swabbing program in Coldwater starting Monday, October 7 through to Friday, October 11, 2024.

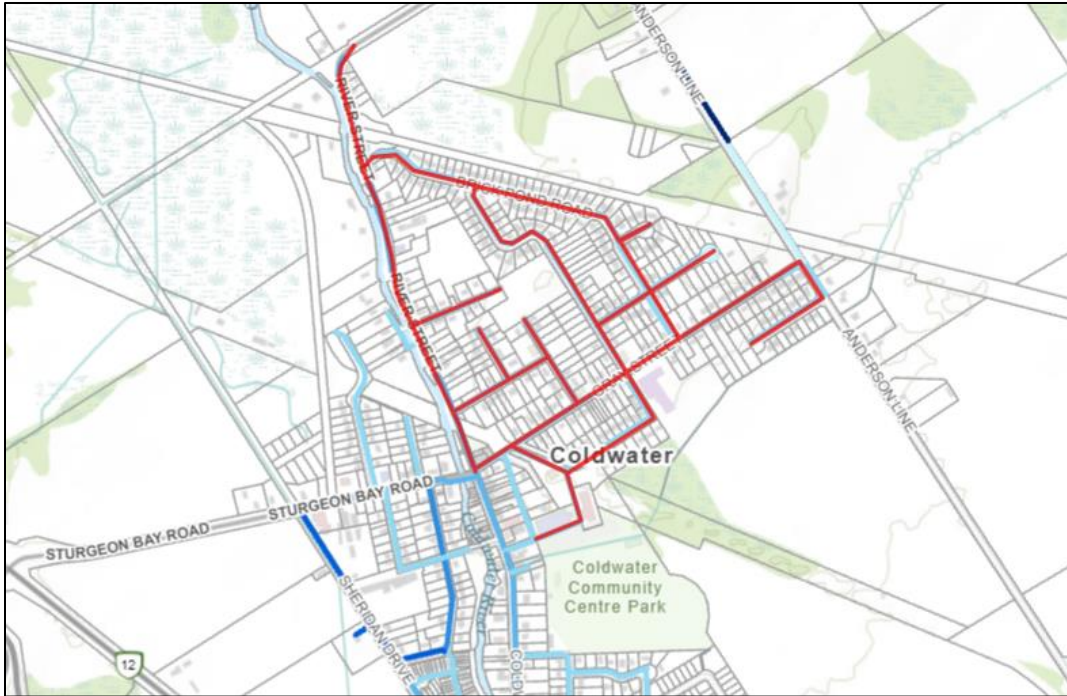
### What is watermain swabbing?

Swabbing involves cleaning the watermain with a foam sponge ('swab') and high-pressure water. These swabs are injected at a hydrant and pushed along the watermain to be removed further down the main through another fire hydrant. The fast-moving water cleans pipes, and the hydrants are left open until the water runs clear. This helps to keep your water clean, fresh, and flowing freely. This work is best performed when water services are off to the mains being cleaned.

*Affected customers will receive a hand-delivered notice from Severn's Utilities department a minimum of one day before the swabbing occurs.*

The cleaning will be completed as quickly as possible and will not continue outside of regular business hours (Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) unless necessary.

*During this cleaning, your water pressure will be significantly reduced. Customers are asked not to run any water from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the date of the scheduled cleaning.*



*Map of the swabbing area: The red lines identify the watermains that will be swabbed during the week of October 7 to October 14. The blue service lines will not be swabbed at this time. Subscribe to updates at [severn.ca/watermains](https://severn.ca/watermains).*

Once the watermain has been cleaned, normal water pressure will be restored. Some customers may be impacted more than once due to their property location. These customers will be notified by hand-delivered notice each time they will be impacted.

For more information, please refer to the Township of Severn website at **[severn.ca/watermains](https://severn.ca/watermains)**.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation while this work is completed.

## Staff contact

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# Frequently asked questions

## 1. How can I prepare for swabbing?

Before the watermain swabbing on your street begins, you should:

- fill a container with tap water for drinking and cooking and store it in your fridge
- complete dishwashing, clothes washing, and any activities that use water before the watermain swabbing is scheduled to start
- fill your bathtub with water for use around the house
- use a pail to transfer water to your toilet so you can flush your toilet
- turn off any water treatment systems, including water softeners, or shut off the main water supply using the shut-off valve located at your water meter

## 2. Can I drink the water?

Once the work is completed and the water has cleared and is no longer discoloured, you can resume all regular activities, including drinking. Discoloured water in itself does not pose a health hazard, however, if the water does not clear up after running your tap for a few minutes please contact us.

## 3. What should I do while the watermains are being swabbed

While the watermains on your street are being cleaned, you should:

- avoid using water, including hot water because it will likely be discoloured
- avoid washing your clothes or doing dishes with discoloured water as it may cause stains



#### 4. Is there anything I should do after the watermains are swabbed?

After the watermains on your street are swabbed, you should:

- run cold water through the tap closest to your water meter until the water is clear (don't use a tap with a filter system because the sediment may clog the filter)
- once the water is clear, turn on your water treatment devices, flush each tap to remove discoloured water, and flush toilets

Please contact us if you have poor water quality, no water, or low water pressure in your home after the watermains have been swabbed.

#### 5. Where does the sediment in the watermains come from?

The sediment in the watermains consists mostly of iron and manganese oxides. These oxides are heavy and will settle on the bottom of watermain piping during periods of normal water use.

#### 6. Where can I find more information about the swabbing schedule?

Visit the Watermain page on our website at [severn.ca/watermains](https://severn.ca/watermains). This is where we post any updates to the schedule. You can also subscribe to the page to receive an email notification every time we update the content. Subscribe to our News and Notices to stay informed about municipal programs and projects at [severn.ca/news](https://severn.ca/news).

