



Frequently Asked Questions

BARNESVILLE WATER TREATMENT PLANT FILTER REHAB

Why is City of Barnesville making improvements?

- We are improving our treatment plant to continue to provide you with safe drinking water. The improvements will replace the existing filter media. The filter media has reached the end of its usable lifespan and has been tested for potential options and the best option for continued water quality is to replace the media.

When will the improvements be made?

The improvements will begin on Monday March 17 with the removal of the existing filter media. This process will take approximately 1 day to complete. After this, a full inspection of the underdrains and nozzles will take place and be replaced if needed. On day 3 of the project, new green sand and anthracite will be added to the filters at the engineered depths of the filter system. This will be followed by charging and disinfection of the new filter media by use of Potassium Permanganate and Liquid Hypochlorite to ensure an effective and safe transition to the new material. There will be samples taken after disinfection and sent to RMB Laboratories to ensure proper disinfection and safe reinstatement of the new filter media. After we have the sample results back, we will put the filter back in service.

Are there any health concerns associated with the improvements?

We will work with the Minnesota Department of Health to continue monitoring our water during Barnesville Filter Media Rehab to ensure that we continue to provide safe drinking water.

How does the City of Barnesville ensure the safety of my drinking water?

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to ensure our drinking water meets all standards. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from contaminants that may be harmful to their health. We test our drinking water for over 100 contaminants.

What will happen after the improvements are done?

- We will run water through our water hydrants. This is called flushing. Flushing reduces the chance that the water will have taste, smell, or color changes. Flushing may disturb

sediment in the water mains. If the color of your water changes, we recommend letting your faucets run until the water is clear before you drink or use it.

- We are using corrosion control treatment to ensure there are no unwanted reactions between the new water and your home's plumbing.

Do I need to do anything?

- You do not need to do anything. If the color of your water changes, we recommend letting your faucets run until the water is clear before you drink or use it.
- Flush your water by opening all taps and letting the water run until it is clear.

Will there be changes in my water quality?

- The new treatment plant filter media will remove iron and manganese, two common metals. Removing iron and manganese will reduce sediment buildup in the water mains and your plumbing. You may notice an improved taste of your water.
- Due to the change in disinfectant type, you may notice a temporary chlorine taste and/or smell. This is common and is usually temporary.
- The color of the water may change temporarily.
- Sediment buildup in the water mains can cause water to have a red or black color. If the color of your water changes, we recommend letting your faucets run until the water is clear before you drink or use it.
- Tiny air bubbles in the water can cause the water to look cloudy. You do not need to let the water run before you use cloudy water. If you prefer, you can let the water sit and the bubbles will disappear.

Will my water service be disrupted?

We do not anticipate any disruptions in your water service. If the color of your water changes, we recommend letting your faucets run until the water is clear before you drink or use it.

How will the improvements affect my home or business?

The improvements will allow us to continue to provide you with safe, reliable drinking water. Sometimes, the process of making improvements can stir up sediment and change the color of the water. This can cause stained laundry, discolored ice from ice machines, and plugged-up water softeners and filters.

If the color of your water changes, we recommend letting your faucets run until the water is clear before you drink or use it.

If you have a softener or filter, you may want to disconnect it until the discolored water has gone away. If you notice sediment build-up in the brine tank, clean out the tank and backwash your softener when you reconnect it. This will flush out any sediment that has built up.

Who should I contact if I have questions about my drinking water?

For more information, please contact Charlie Revering at publicworks@barnesvillemn.com or 701-219-5791