

Missouri American Water Begins Annual Hydrant Maintenance Program

Water Treatment Change to Occur in Conjunction with Hydrant Flushing.

ST. JOSEPH (April 29, 2026) – Missouri American Water will begin its **annual water main and fire hydrant maintenance (flushing) program in St. Joseph and Stewartville next week**, continuing through June. This routine work is part of an annual program that enhances water service, water quality and fire protection in the community. Flushing is scheduled primarily during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

In conjunction with flushing, Missouri American Water is **temporarily adjusting its water treatment process in St. Joseph from chloramines to free chlorine**. Chlorine is commonly used in water systems as a disinfectant and is monitored closely by water quality experts to achieve optimum levels. During this temporary change, **customers may notice a temporary chlorine taste and odor in tap water. This is normal and is not a cause for concern**. This important maintenance program is recommended by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

“This flushing program helps us maintain high-quality water throughout St. Joseph’s distribution system while our crews inspect and operate fire hydrants to ensure they’re working properly,” said **John Hontz, Senior Manager of Operations** for Missouri American Water.

No interruptions in water service are expected. However, when crews are flushing nearby, customers may experience **a drop in water pressure** or **temporary water discoloration**. If this occurs, let the cold tap run until the water is clear. Flushing is planned to begin the week of May 11.

Customers who have signed up for *general alerts* through their MyWater account will receive an automated phone call, text message, or email with information on the flushing program.

About American Water

American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the United States. With a history dating back to 1886 and celebrating 140 years in 2026, We Keep Life Flowing® by providing safe, clean, reliable and affordable drinking water and wastewater services to approximately 14 million people with regulated operations in 14 states and on 18 military installations. American Water’s approximately 7,000 talented professionals leverage their significant expertise and the company’s national size and scale to achieve excellent outcomes for the benefit of customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders. For more information, visit amwater.com and join American Water on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Missouri American Water

Missouri American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, is the largest regulated water utility in the state with approximately 700 dedicated employees working to provide safe, clean, reliable and affordable water and wastewater services to approximately 1.7 million people. For more, visit missouriamwater.com and follow Missouri American Water on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Media Contact:

Christie Barnhart
Senior Manager, External Communications
Missouri American Water
Christie.barnhart@amwater.com

<https://newsroom.amwater.com/2026-04-29-Missouri-American-Water-Begins-Annual-Hydrant-Maintenance-Program>