

# CITY OF ARCHER CITY

## The City of Archer City will perform a Water Quality Maintenance Flushing Beginning August 1, 2025

**Background:** The City of Archer City, Texas is dedicated to providing the best quality water we can. Every month, we can be seen flushing valves to ensure the water we serve is safe and fresh. Our water distribution team is tasked with the duty of ensuring that water in all points of the system is acceptable to our customers. There may be times that the water may be discolored to a yellow, orange, or even brownish color. This can be caused by a build-up of manganese in the distribution system. Manganese is not harmful at the levels found in the system, but it can be a nuisance by discoloring the water. Over time, manganese will attach itself to the pipes and release when there are extreme changes in the velocity or pressure, similar to when there is a water main break or during flush valve testing. Nitrification can also occur in water systems that use chloramine for their residual disinfectant. Nitrification is a microbial process that converts ammonia and similar nitrogen compounds into nitrite and then nitrate. The key to stopping nitrification is to starve the nitrifying bacteria of nitrogen.

**Remedy:** Normally the water is treated with a disinfectant called “chloramine” which is a long-lasting disinfectant that ensures the safety of the water. The “Maintenance Flush” is a change in the treatment process from chloramines to free chlorine. The City of Archer City will perform a free chlorine shock of the system together. This will help remove iron, manganese, and other constituents in the mains, key in stopping nitrification, and will improve water quality with **no associated health risks**. Free chlorine is the disinfectant of choice when performing a system-wide maintenance flush. It will help us cleanse the lines, stop nitrification, and ensure that the water continues to be safe to drink.

**Nuisance Problems:** During these efforts to improve water quality as a whole, there may be times of taste and odors that are abnormal. The City of Archer City is dedicated to making sure the water is safe to drink and will be monitoring the disinfectant levels continually during the work. If you get an odor or taste in your water, it does not mean it is unsafe to drink. Odors will be caused by the free chlorine disinfectant reacting in the lines to cleanse the system. Nuisance issues will go away as the work is completed.

**Good News:** After the completion of the work on August 31st, 2025, the water quality will be substantially better than before. Our work will help the mains retain their disinfectant residual longer and will reduce monthly flushing. In turn, this flushing program will save money and help keep operational costs down while providing the customers a better quality product. Please be patient with us during our efforts to serve you better.