



MEET SYSTEM GOALS &  
IMPROVE PERFORMANCE  
**WITH WATER LINE FLUSHING**

**Water line flushing is a critical function that supports every utility's most important mission: providing healthy, high-quality water consistently to the community. Flushing keeps pipes clean by reducing residue and buildup that can constrict flow and create a breeding ground for bacteria. It also helps identify and manage distribution maintenance components such as hydrants and valves.**

Many aspects of this vital activity have been practiced the same way for years. Flushing is basically the act of flowing water from the distribution system in a particular area to promote safe and clean drinking water. Most utilities over the years have followed the Conventional Flushing practice, which is still effective, yet not the most efficient. This method offers no specific order or approach other than verifying that all flushing points have been accessed.

Innovations in flushing methodology allow utilities to systematically flush water lines in one direction and at a minimum velocity of 3-feet-per-second or higher. This method is called Unidirectional Flushing. In a UDF program, utilities divide their distribution systems into manageable sections and flush from the source outward, and from larger mains to smaller mains, maintaining a set flushing velocity (i.e., 3ft/second) while sustaining a minimum of 20 PSI system pressure. By following these guidelines, systems can be flushed while using less water and yielding cleaner results than Conventional Flushing.



## 6 CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE STARTING A WATER LINE FLUSHING PROJECT



### 1. Map system and components

Collecting system maps showing components and the location of primary and secondary water supplies enables you to design manageable sections or zones. A properly designed section or zone should allow crews to complete work in a single shift, reducing labor costs and increasing overall productivity.



### 2. Create procedures for each section

Each section should average 10 to 12 steps, so it's crucial to develop precise instructions for each one. You also need to outline the process for the closing and opening of valves.



### 3. Verify erosion control and dechlorination guidelines

There are strict local, state and federal guidelines related to water releases. Confirm the requirements that apply to your location before undertaking any flushing operation. Review your current inventory of dechlorination and erosion control tools to make sure you have the equipment you need to be in compliance.



### 4. Select appropriate tools and equipment

The right gear produces the best return on investment. Some examples include an accurate flow device that measures flow, a dechlorinating diffuser that dechlorinates the water and automated flushing systems that can be programmed to run without personnel needing to be present. This allows for water to be flushed at off-peak hours and at regular intervals, thus lessening the community and labor impact.



### 5. Notify the public

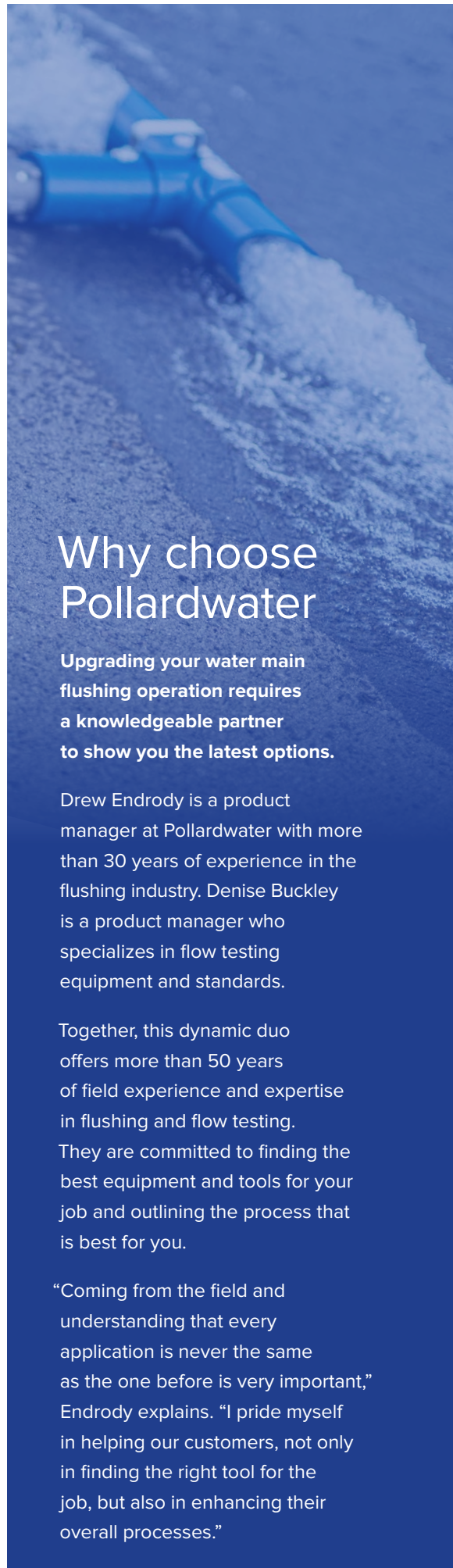
Teaching the public about the importance of flushing and alerting them before and during flushing operations raises awareness, builds trust, and reduces calls and social media posts your staff have to manage. Use bill stuffers, street signage, social media and your website to keep the community informed of both the process and the rationale behind it.



### 6. Manage your data

UDF is a dynamic process that produces a lot of field-collected data. Save and review this information to create snapshots and identify developing and ongoing trends. This data informs internal operations and can be used in reports to board members, municipalities and the general public.

As your infrastructure ages, it's increasingly important to deploy new technology to streamline the flushing process and extend the life of your system at a reasonable cost.



## Why choose Pollardwater

**Upgrading your water main flushing operation requires a knowledgeable partner to show you the latest options.**

Drew Endrody is a product manager at Pollardwater with more than 30 years of experience in the flushing industry. Denise Buckley is a product manager who specializes in flow testing equipment and standards.

Together, this dynamic duo offers more than 50 years of field experience and expertise in flushing and flow testing. They are committed to finding the best equipment and tools for your job and outlining the process that is best for you.

“Coming from the field and understanding that every application is never the same as the one before is very important,” Endrody explains. “I pride myself in helping our customers, not only in finding the right tool for the job, but also in enhancing their overall processes.”



## ABOUT US

Pollardwater is a leading supplier of maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) products, specializing in tools, equipment and supplies for municipal water and wastewater operations throughout North America. Since 1837, Pollardwater's team of industry experts has focused on providing superior customer service and providing solutions for a wide variety of industry needs. Our [print catalog](#), [digital catalog](#) and eCommerce capabilities make it easy for our customers to do business the way they want, with seamless product ordering and account management. Our strategically located network of distribution centers and relationships with the industry's top manufacturers mean on-time delivery and unmatched support for a wide breadth of [products](#) across the water and wastewater industries.

Visit Pollardwater online at [www.pollardwater.com](http://www.pollardwater.com)

or call 1-800-437-1146 for more information.