

Overview

This Standard is about cleansing water mains and pipe work using methods. These may be systematic flushing, water scouring, air scouring or foam swabbing.

This includes making sure the system is configured so that cleansing can be carried out properly, selecting and using the right equipment, cleansing the water mains, disposing of discharged water and making sure water quality meets service level requirements.

This Standard is for anyone who cleanses water mains and pipe work.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. use information to identify cleansing activities to be carried out in line with organisational procedures
2. ensure an impact assessment of proposed cleansing activities has been carried out
3. check that selected cleansing methods are appropriate for the circumstances
4. confirm customers have been notified about cleansing activities in line with organisational procedures
5. confirm system is configured to enable cleansing activities to be carried out
6. record accurate information in accordance with organisational procedures
7. follow safe working and hygiene practices in line with organisational procedures and regulatory and statutory requirements
8. select equipment that is appropriate for cleansing methods to be used
9. confirm equipment is in the required operational condition and is installed in line with the manufacturer's specification and organisational procedures
10. carry out cleansing procedures in line with organisational procedures
11. dispose of discharged water in line with safety and environmental requirements and organisational procedures
12. carry out tests in line with organisational procedures to confirm the effectiveness of cleansing operations on water quality
13. resolve problems which occur in line with organisational procedures
14. inform other people about cleansing details in line with organisational procedures

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the reasons for cleansing and the need to cleanse mains
2. organisational procedures for selecting cleansing methods
3. limitations of cleansing and different cleansing methods and their appropriateness for different situations including systematic flushing, water scouring, air scouring and foam swabbing
4. preparation procedures and calculations which may need to be carried out including flow velocities
5. issues which might occur during system preparation
6. correct and safe use of equipment
7. the safe disposal of water and the damage which can be caused by incorrect disposal
8. water testing methods, when they should be used and the procedures to follow for each
9. water quality parameters
10. typical problems and how to resolve them
11. who to inform when cleansing has taken place
12. the cleansing information that needs to be provided including times and duration of any flow changes
13. organisational requirements and procedures for recording cleansing information
14. safety and hygiene practices and regulatory and statutory requirements related to working in the public highway, use of tools and equipment and personal hygiene

EUSWSD8

Cleanse water mains



Developed by	Energy & Utility Skills
Version Number	3
Date Approved	28 Feb 2026
Indicative Review Date	28 Feb 2029
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Energy & Utility Skills
Original URN	EUSWSD8
Relevant Occupations	Building and Construction, Engineering, Process, Plant and Machine Operatives, Public Services, Science and Engineering Technicians
Suite	Drinking Water Supply Distribution
Keywords	Scouring; cleansing; flow velocities; hygiene; drinking water; water supply; distribution; leakage;
