

Water Quality Information Related to Frequently Asked Questions

1. **“Rusty Water”** - Residents from throughout the distribution system occasionally experience reddish or brownish discolored water. This is usually caused by increased flow through water mains, which dislodges iron deposits. This is usually not a health threat, but consumers should refrain from using the water until the disturbance is over. After that, the water should be allowed to run until it clears before using.
2. **Chlorine** - Chlorine is added to drinking water as a disinfectant. Treatment plants add chlorine at a constant dosage to maintain an adequate concentration throughout the distribution system, as required by the Environmental Protection Agency.
3. **“Cloudy Water”** - “Cloudy water” is usually caused by the release of dissolved air from water. This is quite common and harmless. When watched closely, the dissolved air (cloudiness) slowly travels upward, out of solution. Cloudiness can also be caused when natural minerals in water come out of solution.
4. **“White Spots in Coffeepots”** - Minerals dissolved in water settle out when water is heated. The minerals will accumulate as “white spots in coffeepots”. To remove these spots, fill the coffeepot with vinegar and let it sit overnight. In the morning, rinse out the coffeepot several times with water.
5. **Fluoride** - Fluoride occurs naturally in City of Dayton well water and in groundwater throughout the United States. Our water treatment plants supplement the natural fluoride to protect teeth from dental caries (cavities). The natural fluoride is increased from approximately 0.35 parts per million to 1 part per million.
6. **Lead** - The most common cause of lead in drinking water is the corrosion of plumbing fixtures and solders containing lead. The drinking water supplied to the distribution system of the City of Dayton does not contain lead at a detectable level. As a precaution, lead can be reduced or eliminated from drinking water by allowing cold water to run until it gets as cold as it will get, before using the water for drinking or cooking. The City of Dayton Water Quality Laboratory extensively samples and tests drinking water from homes and other sites. Lead is not detected in most of the samples.
7. **Bacteria** – The City of Dayton tests water for coliform bacteria on a routine basis. Coliform bacteria are a group of bacteria that can indicate contamination. Fecal coliform (including E Coli) are a group of bacteria that can indicate fecal contamination of water. The City of Dayton samples untreated and treated water and performs testing for total coliform and fecal coliform bacteria.

For More Information:

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