

TASTE, ODOR, AND COLOR IN WATER FACT SHEET

Chlorinous, Bleachy, Chemical, or Medicinal Taste/Odor

There are two common causes for a chlorinous, bleachy, chemical, or medicinal taste **and** odor in water.

- Addition of chloramine (total chlorine) that we use to disinfect the water to ensure that it is safe to drink.
- Interaction of chloramine with a build-up of organic material in your plumbing.

Although the total chlorine level is a fraction of what is in pools and spas, you may occasionally detect the smell of chlorine in your water. This odor may be stronger in the shower since chlorine is released into the air more rapidly when mixed with hot water.

If the problem is the water supply, it will occur at every faucet and will not go away after a few minutes of running the water. An easy way to get rid of the chlorine taste and smell is to let water sit in a glass for a few minutes and then chill it in the refrigerator. Cold water tastes and smells better than water at room temperature.

Cloudy, Foamy or Milky Water

Milky white water can also be described as cloudy, hazy, soupy or foamy, and is almost always caused by air in the water. Important information and tips to know:

- Consistent cloudiness in cold and hot water:
 - Tiny air bubbles in water can give water a cloudy or milky appearance. Water in your pipes is under pressure--filling a glass of water reduces that pressure and can cause air bubbles to appear in your water which can look cloudy, milky, or carbonated.
- Troubleshooting:
 - Collect a glass of water and let it stand for two to three minutes. Any air bubbles will rise to the surface and the milky appearance of water should clear starting from the bottom. Entrained air does not affect the quality of your water.