



CLOUDY WATER?



Once in a while, you get a glass of water and it looks cloudy; maybe milky is a better term. The cloudiness is typically due to tiny air bubbles in the water. Like any bubble, the air rises to the top of the water and goes into the air above, clearing up the water. Cloudy water is caused by air bubbles in the water and is completely harmless. You can tell if it is air if the cloudiness clears first from the bottom of a glass with the small air bubbles moving up towards the surface.

Every winter and spring the Public Works & Utilities Department responds to numerous calls from our customers concerned about cloudy tap water. We would like to reassure our customers that this is a normal condition and the water is safe. Our staff collects water samples throughout the distribution system and a private laboratory analyzes the tap water quality.

Our water originates from 60 to 80 feet below the gravel beds of the Russian River. At that depth, the water is under significant pressure and this source water is very cold. When water is both cold and under pressure, it is capable of holding significant amounts of dissolved oxygen or entrapped air. When the water gets to your tap it is generally a few degrees warmer and opening the faucets releases the pressure. The oxygen dissolved in the water immediately bubbles out, similar to opening a bottle of soda.

We suggest that customers draw tap water into a bottle and store it in their refrigerators or let it sit in an open container until the bubbles naturally disappear. It takes only a few minutes for the air bubbles to clear.

If you have any questions or are experiencing cloudy water that does not clear as described, please call the Public Works & Utilities Department at 778-4546.