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# Rivergrove Water Information

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## Rivergrove Water District

### “Should I install a home water treatment device?”

This is a personal decision. The devices are not needed to make the water meet federal, state, or provincial drinking water safety standards. In fact, if not properly maintained, the devices actually may cause water quality problems.

Some people do, however, complain about their drinking water, particularly its taste. If taste is important to you, then you might consider a home treatment unit. Home treatment units, called point-of-use (POU) systems, can be located in several places in the home: countertop, faucet-mounted, under-sink cold tap, under-sink line bypass, or at the point of entry into the house.

Treatment units fall into six general categories:

- Particulate filters that remove particles of different sizes.
- Adsorption “filters” (most are not really filters) containing activated carbon that remove chlorine, taste and odor, and other organic compounds. Some units can remove chlorine reaction products, some solvents such as cleaning fluid, and pesticides. Microbes do grow in these units (but these usually are not germs) and this may be of concern to some. Use of silver-containing activated carbon to prevent the growth of these microbes has not been shown to be uniformly effective or very long lasting. Most adsorption filters remove very little copper and lead. Certain special “filters” will remove dissolved lead, but unfortunately, manufacturers’ claims sometimes are not accurate, so check their claims with independent organizations.
- Oxidation-filtration systems that change iron (red-water problems), manganese (black-water problems), or hydrogen sulfide (the rotten-egg odor) into a form that can be filtered out of the water before it enters the home. These are frequently used for private sources of water, a private well for example.

- Water softening systems that trade (exchange) the nontoxic chemicals in your water that cause hardness for other nontoxic chemicals that do not cause hardness. These units have a limited ability to make this change and must be regenerated periodically with salt.
- Reverse osmosis units that remove hardness; chemicals such as nitrates, sodium, dissolved metals, and other minerals; and some organic chemicals. If the unit is sensitive to chlorine, a chlorine-removal step usually is included prior to the reverse osmosis unit. They do allow some organic chemicals to pass into the treated water. Therefore, these systems may be followed by adsorption units to remove these organic compounds. Reverse osmosis units usually produce relatively small volumes of water.
- Distillation units that boil water and condense the steam to create distilled water remove some organic and inorganic chemicals (nitrates, chlorine, sodium, dissolved metals, etc.). Some organic chemicals may pass through the unit with the steam and contaminate the distilled water unless the unit is designed to avoid this problem.

All of these units require maintenance, should be bought from a reputable dealer, and should be tested and validated against accepted performance standards like those used by NSF International and the Water Quality Association (WQA). You should investigate all claims made for any unit. A 1991 study by the US General Accounting Office (GAO) reported that some companies selling these units make fraudulent claims, without regard to the public

**“I bought a water filter for my house and after six months when I went to change it, the filter was covered with gunk. Is my drinking water really OK with all that stuff in it?”**

It is hard to imagine how much water went through that filter in six months to produce that layer of “gunk”, but lets do a little figuring. Suppose each 8 ounces (236 milliliters) (equivalent to a glass of water) has 10 particles in it (not much) that can be removed by your filter. This makes 160 particles in 1 gallon (3.8 liters). An average family of four uses about 200 gallons (760 liters) per day, which is a little under 40,000 gallons (150,000 liters) in six months. This means that your filter had caught almost 6.5 million particles by the time you changed it, surely enough to make an impressive looking film on your filter. So the answer to your question is, yes, the water is OK, and probably has very few particles in each glass of water, too few to be of any harm to you.



December 17, 2002

**“Should I install a water softener in my home?”**

If you are bothered by a sticky, gummy soap curd deposit in your bathtub or by the buildup of white deposits (called scale) on your cooking pots and coffee maker, a water softener can help with these problems. Find out how hard your water is by calling your local drinking water supplier and ask, “What is the hardness of my drinking water?” The higher the hardness number, the more a water softener will help. If it is more than 120 milligrams per liter (sometimes called 120 parts per million or 7 grains per gallon), then you might consider a water softener to reduce the formation of scale in your hot water system and to make washing easier.

The water softener replaces the nontoxic hardness minerals with sodium or potassium. The amounts of these elements are relatively insignificant in comparison to what you get in food and should not be a problem, unless your doctor has put you on a special restrictive diet.

Whether to put the softener on your main water line or just the hot water line is a complicated issue. Softening only the hot water has some advantages relating to regeneration, which is a process by which the softening materials inside the softener can be used over and over again.

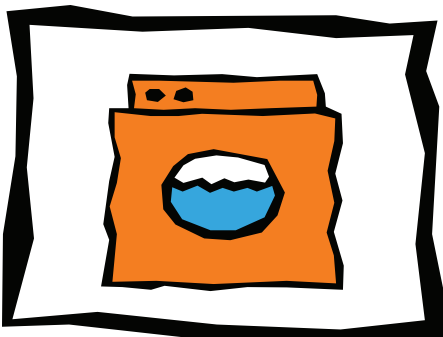
Water softeners are regenerated with salt. After the salt is used, it goes down the drain and into the environment-so the less salt used the better. Using less salt also saves you money. By softening only hot water, the softener needs regeneration less often-less water going through the unit means less salt being needed. Also, regenerating a softener after a selected amount of water has gone through it rather than using a timer is better, as this prevents wasting salt by regenerating too soon or using the softener after it has stopped softening.

Finally, some people think bathing in completely soft water (both hot and cold water softened) is unpleasant-it feels like the soap won't rinse off. You may be surprised to learn, however, that rinsing is actually more complete in soft water than in hard water.

On the other hand, softening only the hot water has two disadvantages. If you wash your clothes in cold water, you won't get the benefit of soft water, but you can buy products to add to your wash to help if this is a problem. More important, if your water is very hard-more than twice the numbers mentioned earlier-when you mix the hot and cold water

together, the water will still be hard and you won't see much benefit from the softener. Thus, a single answer for everyone is not possible.

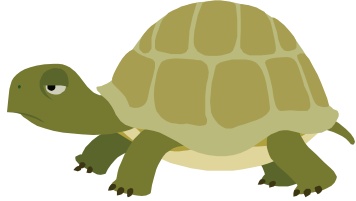
Concern has been expressed by some whether the installation of a water softener may raise the lead and copper content of drinking water in homes that are experiencing problems. Difficulties are not expected in this regard; the US Environmental Protection Agency is conducting research to investigate these matters.



**Rivergrove Water Quality 2011**

	<u>WELL #1</u>	<u>WELL#2</u>
<u>PHYSICALS:</u>		
pH	6.6	6.1
Total Solids	242 ppm	210 ppm
<u>NUTRIENTS:</u>		
Nitrite	ND	ND
Nitrate	1.7 ppm	1.9 ppm
<u>ANIONS/CATIONS:</u>		
Chloride	15	11
Fluoride	ND	ND
Sulfate	ND	ND
Hardness	124 mg/l	106 mg/l
Grains per gallon	7.25gpg	6.19 mg/l
Sodium	10.5mg/l	8.09 mg/l
<u>METALS:</u>		
Aluminum		
Arsenic	ND	ND
Barium	ND	ND
Cadmium	ND	ND
Total Chromium	.63 ppb	.34 ppb
Hexavalent Chromium	.34 ppb	.24 ppb
Lead	ND	ND
Mercury	ND	ND
Nickel	ND	ND
Selenium	ND	ND
Copper	ND	0.029
Iron	ND	0.07
Manganese	ND	ND
Zinc	ND	0.03
<u>ORGANICS:</u>		
Chloroform	ND	ND
Bromodichlormethane	ND	ND
Bromoform	ND	ND

## Dealing with Moderately Hard to Hard Water “Turtle Wax your Toilet”



Rivergrove Water is from groundwater and tends to be classified as moderately hard to hard water. The water has dissolved minerals mostly Calcium and Magnesium which tends to leave a whitish scale on plumbing fixtures.

This is good and bad for our customers. The minerals in the water are good for you and if the water is a little hard good plumbing pipes and fixtures will not leach some very bad chemicals copper and lead into your drinking water.

The bad is that we get a lot of calls concerning the stains and how to deal with them. I am going to pass on some tips and suggestions that I have heard in my years here. And if you have anything that works for you let me know and we can post on the website for others to see. I do not endorse the products that I list just that customers have told me these work.

1. **Softening only the hot water**-using a water softener is your personal choice but to keep the good minerals in for drinking and cooking only soften the hot water so this will help in bathing, cleaning, etc. When water is softened most of the time it is trading calcium ions for sodium ions so that adds salt to your water.
2. **Using the product “A-Maz”**. I have heard you need to really scrub for the first cleaning then use weekly. Here is the product link: <http://www.a-maz.com/>
3. **“Turtle Wax your toilet”**

This is a very unique solution offered by former Engineer, former Board member and customer Don Murray. If you have new toilets or plumbing fixtures here is his suggestion:

**Don says: The Turtle Wax can says lasts up to 12 months. I do not know actually how long the wax will last. When you first apply the wax you can see the water “bead” or buckle up from the surface tension at the water edge. This goes away in a few days but I think the protection lasts longer. I have been reapplying the wax about every 6 weeks. I have seen a dramatic reduction in the staining and the fixtures are very easy to clean. There does not seem to be a wax buildup after more than 2 years.**

**I just clean the toilet, flush, shut off water supply and flush again, sometimes I sponge out left over water. Let dry. Apply wax and let dry. Turn on water and flush.**

**I forgot to mention that I also wax my bathroom sink and the inside of my glass shower door. I am just WAXy!**



This page is for you!



Do you have any tips  
on how to deal with  
those stains?

Contact us and we will share  
with the rest of our  
customers!

