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## **Your Water Supply #1**

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Your water has several elements to it. Simply put, they are Clarity, Chemical Content, and Purity

Clarity refers to whether there are particles in the water and any color to it. Chemical content can range from naturally occurring minerals to man-made chemicals. Purity addresses dangerous biological elements (such as E. Coli) and man-made chemicals. Any of these can affect the smell of the water.

States have guidelines that allow traces of various elements and they require periodic testing/reporting. These test reports, and the State requirements, should be made available to you by the Water District on a regular basis.

So far, comments made on ND have talked about the problems of chemical buildup and low water pressure. The two may be directly related.

Chemical buildup (hard water) will be readily seen on your shower heads, coffee makers, dishwashers, toilet bowls, washing machines, and water valves. Your dishes and pots/pans may have a whitish film on them. Your clothes, after repeated wash cycles, will trap the particles in the cloth. Depending on the particular chemical, you may taste and/or smell something in your drinking water, tea, or coffee.

The buildup can also be found in the water lines coming to your house and the water meters. Any buildup there can lower your water pressure. Normally, a water supplier will have 'check points' near the end of each water line to verify pressure and take samples.

Water pressure is also affected by the number of users on a line. You will have low water pressure in your house if the users are excessive for the diameter of pipe (at a given pressure),. The age/soundness of the lines, a possibility of many small leaks, and the chemical buildup within the lines are major considerations. The clogged, leaking water line can't deliver the correct pressure. There should be periodic replacement of meters and water lines have a life limit and your water district should have a reserve established for maintenance and replacement.

To reduce the chemical buildup, you can buy filters for some of your needs (cooking and drinking) or have water softening put in (adding more chemicals) or have the water district do some more filtering.

What is your ACWD doing about reducing these unwanted chemicals? What is your ACWD doing about supplying the correct water pressure to all customers? Does the ACWD have a maintenance and replacement fund established? Does the ACWD send you a periodic statement of State Requirements and the test reports supplied to the State?

Should the ACWD hold some community meetings and speak to these problem areas?

Should the ACWD make available copies of the State Requirements, the ACWD testing procedures, and the ACWD test reports?

The next posting (Your Water Supply #2) will address your water purity.

Note: Some information in this article sourced from CDC.