

Subject: Update on Reported Water Odor and Taste Issues

We've recently received a few complaints regarding a noticeable "dirt-like" odor and taste in the water at certain homes. In collaboration with Chester Water, we are continuing to monitor the situation.

Please note that both Chester Water and the town must adhere to rigorous testing requirements for the water that is provided for you. Unlike other water systems, the Town's water is monitored by two separate agencies. You can access the results in the Consumer Confidence Report at

https://www.risingsunmd.org/.../docu.../1687982471_31559.pdf.

Our town also tests the water supply weekly at various locations.

In response to recent concerns, we have taken samples from some of the affected homes. The results show no problems with water quality, but our investigation has revealed some potential contributing factors specific to those homes to include water filtering systems and faucet aerators that have not been cleaned or flushed in a very long time.



Here are some other potential reasons for the unusual odor and taste:

Heavy Rain: Recent periods of heavy rain, coupled with drought conditions have led to runoff and washout of elements such as dirt, organic matter, and decaying vegetation into area reservoirs, rivers, and wells.

Naturally Occurring Compounds: A dirt-like smell or taste may be due to compounds such as geosmin or 2-methylisoborneol (2-MIB), which are produced by algae in the water supply. These are not harmful but can be unpleasant. They sometimes remain despite our water treatment processes.

Home Plumbing Systems: The issue may originate from your own home, particularly if you live in an older building. A more detailed explanation of potential causes can be found here.

<https://www.johnsonwater.com/why-your-water-tastes-like.../>

Here is what can be done going forward:

Town Monitoring, Testing and Flushing: We will continue to monitor the situation, especially in light of the ongoing drought, to include additional flushing and continued testing.

Filtration Systems: If you use a home filtration system, ensure it uses activated carbon to reduce these compounds and that it's regularly maintained.

Water Dispensers: If you draw water from a refrigerator dispenser, ensure it has a filter that is regularly changed.

Hot Water Heater: Regular flushing of your hot water heater can help remove sediment and mineral buildup, improving efficiency and prolonging its lifespan. It also ensures that your water heater continues to provide clean and safe hot water for your household

Older Home Plumbing Systems: If you live in an older home, you may want to consult a professional about the installation of a home filtration system or reverse-osmosis water treatment system.

We're committed to ensuring the highest quality of your water. Please reach out if you have any further questions or concerns. Thank you for your patience as we monitor this issue.