



1037 NW Grebe Street
Seal Rock, Oregon 97376
Phone: 541.563.3529 – Fax: 541.563.4246
www.srwd.org



Seal Rock Water District

Seal Rock Water District Public Notice Regarding Water Quality

Dear SRWD Customers,

Due to increased temperature in the raw water used for treating our drinking water, customers may experience what seems like slightly higher than usual levels of chlorine. We are required to meet strict drinking water standards regulated by the EPA and Oregon Health Authority. The EPA allows up to 4 milligrams per liter of chlorine in drinking water. The chlorine levels in SRWD's system are maintained well below this level.

The level of chlorine added to the drinking water varies only slightly. However, we recognize that some people are more sensitive to tastes and odors than others, and water disinfected with chlorine can be more noticeable as water temperature rises in the system. Occasional fluctuations in taste or smell do not necessarily indicate an increase or decrease in the disinfectant. It is more likely due to a change in water temperature (especially with warmer weather) or older water age, indicating that the chlorine is dissipating in time.

Water is disinfected to protect public health. Chlorine has been added to drinking water in small amounts since the early 1900s to destroy disease-causing pathogens. Prior to the widespread use of disinfectants, many people became ill or died because of contaminated water. Disinfection kills or inactivates bacteria, viruses, and other potentially harmful organisms in drinking water.

Upon initial dosing, chlorine reacts with any organic matter in water. The amount of chlorine used in these reactions is known as the "chlorine demand" of the water. Raw water taken from lakes and streams for drinking water treatment is likely to have a high chlorine demand based on the presence of natural organic material, e.g., decaying plant and animal matter.

SRWD's operators carefully monitor the amount of disinfectant added to the water as it leaves the treatment plant. Operators strictly follow the EPA's maximum allowable levels in order to protect public health. Disinfectant residual levels (a measure of how much chlorine is in the water) are monitored 24/7 at all SRWD entry points and at several locations throughout SRWD's distribution system. Residual readings are also collected from various sample stations around the district several times each month to confirm your water is safe to drink.

If you would like to learn more about the disinfectant we use, please visit the Oregon Public Health Drinking Water Data Online website at yourwater.oregon.gov. If you are concerned that the level of chlorine at your location is higher than it should be please contact the district at 541.563.3529 (choose option 3) and we will have an operator visit your location to analyze the water.

Thank you for reading this public notice.