

FAULTY HOME PLUMBING CAN SPOIL YOUR WATER

We shall continue to deliver the finest water to our customers, but, unfortunately, we cannot protect this water after it enters house pipes. *Faulty home plumbing* may create tastes and odors in drinking water, or cloud it with particles.

To protect your water, be sure to check your plumbing periodically. Here are a few things to look for

Particles from Worm Plumbing

Particles in your water may come from deteriorating hot water heaters, worn faucet washers, or clogged strainers.

Tastes and Odors from Back Siphonage

Tastes and odors in your drinking water can be caused by back siphonage in your plumbing.

For this reason it is unwise to leave hoses submerged in tubs, tanks, dish water, or bathing pools. Opening of a faucet in another part of the house, accompanied by a drop in water pressure, could pull water back into your system from your tub, sink or pool.

Water in a hose left lying in the sun may expand and flow back into your household pipes if the outside faucet has not been shut off.



Water may also reenter your cold water pipes from the flush tank in your bathroom if the tank valve is not working properly.

One of the most common sources of bad taste and odor may be your home heating system, if this depends on hot water. Faulty check valves or faulty on-off valves on the make-up water lines to your pressure tank may allow hot water to be drawn back into your cold water system.

Tastes and Odors from Other Sources

If food in your refrigerator is not properly covered, ice cubes and pitchers of drinking water may absorb odors from it.

Detergent residues on improperly rinsed glasses will also impart taste and odor to drinking water. This is because such residues combine chemically with chlorine in the water.



YOU SAY

- Purity
- Safety
- Quality

... But Faulty Home Plumbing Can Spoil a Good Drink. See Back.

PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

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WHEN YOU SAY

"Philadelphia Water"

Dear Water Customer:

A poet once said that "water is the noblest of the elements." He was thinking, of course, of the beauty and life-giving qualities of water.

We in the Water Department think of water as more than a splendid gift of nature. We think of it also as a raw material that we must make pure, palatable and safe for our customers.

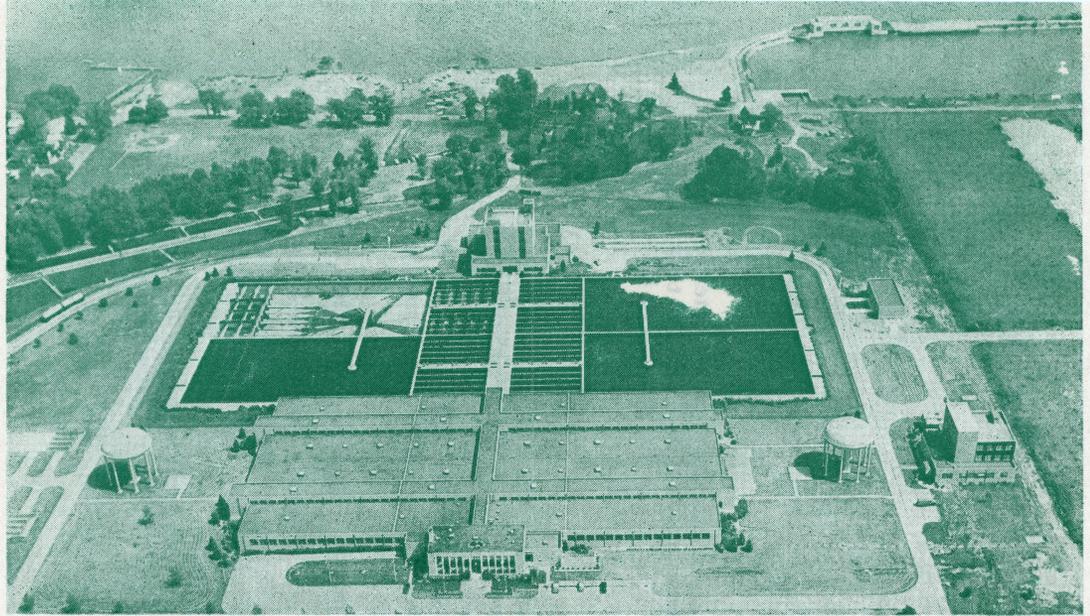
To achieve this purity and to make our water as pleasing as possible, our plants perform many complex operations. Sophisticated equipment applies purifying chemicals in automatically measured doses . . . giant paddles mix the chemicals with the water . . . huge basins allow sediment to settle out . . . sand and gravel beds filter out impurities . . . laboratories make hundreds of tests daily.

And behind this operation are highly trained engineers, chemists and operators, who constantly ask, "Is our water the *best* that we can supply to our customers?"

Asking this question is almost a way of life for us, and, despite many improvements in our product, we are never quite satisfied with the answer. We always hope and try to do better.

During the past 20 years, we have built three modern plants and many other facilities to purify, store and deliver good water to your faucet. We have introduced better treatment chemicals and adopted new electronic equipment, always seeking new water quality "breakthroughs."

As a result of this program, Philadelphia drinking water has become one of the purest treated waters in America. Its coliform organism count is only 3%



Three Modern Plants Assure Pure and Palatable Water for Our City. The Torresdale Plant Above.

to 5% of what is permitted under the drinking water standards of the U. S. Public Health Service for interstate carriers.

In terms of purity, clarity, and other quality factors, your drinking water, as it leaves the plants, meets or surpasses all the standards of the U. S. Public Health Service and most of the quality goals of the American Water Works Association.

No large American water utility—to our knowledge—can claim more.

It is not enough, of course, simply to *produce* good water. The quality of this water must be preserved as it flows through many miles of mains to your home. To do this, we have built hundreds of miles of new mains, cleaned and lined hundreds of miles of old pipelines, and created new covered reservoirs. As a result, the water which

enters your home is (with rare exception) of the fine quality turned out by our plants.

Of course, like all water utilities, we wrestle on occasion with minor quality problems. Thus, mild taste and odor may appear briefly in the water going to some homes. This may result from such special conditions as a pipeline deadend that causes water to stand, or from an old main that needs cleaning, or from serious river conditions that require us to chlorinate water more fully.

We are solving these problems as fast as funds will allow. For example, we plan to have ammonia treatment of water at all plants by the summer of 1973. Ammonia, by combining with chlorine, will wipe out any remaining trace of chlorinous taste and odor in the water flowing through our system.