

What can be done to reduce or prevent taste and odours in water?

Here are a few suggestions:

- ◆ Ensure that outside connections, such as hoses and irrigations systems are turned off at the tap and only connected when in use.
- ◆ Only use water from the cold water tap for drinking purposes and filling the kettle.
If you have a water filter make sure that you maintain water filters as per supplier's instructions.
- ◆ Water absorbs taste and odour very easily so, when storing water in the fridge, make sure that it is covered.
- ◆ Ensure all water pipes are covered and not exposed to sunlight.
- ◆ Flush the cold tap for approximately ten seconds before use (especially first thing in the morning or if tap has not been used for more than 48 hours).
- ◆ If there is a green stain in the kettle have an electrician check the earth strap for the house.

When chlorine tastes are experienced, water taste can be improved by:

Exposing water in a clear uncovered jug to sunlight for up to an hour.



Placing an airtight bottle of water in fridge before drinking (cool water always tastes better); discard any unused water after 24 hours.



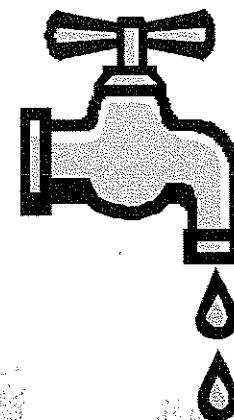
Adding a few drops of lemon juice or lemon slices to the water before drinking.



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Taste and Odour in Water



Why does water sometimes taste peculiar?

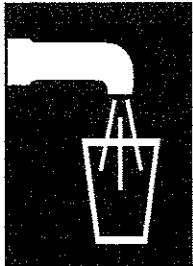
- earthy-
- musty-
- metallic-

Hauraki District Council's Water Sources

Hauraki District Council regularly monitors all its public water supplies to maintain water quality. The fully treated supplies of Paeroa, Waihi, Kerepehi and Waitakaruru have a better quality of water than the partially treated supplies of Waikino, Karangahake, Mackaytown, Ohinemuri, Kaimanawa and Turua.

From time to time unusual taste and odour in supply will be more noticeable. The causes of unusual taste and odour do vary from scheme to scheme, with the partially treated supplies being more prone to taste variations.

Why does water sometimes taste peculiar, earthy, musty or metallic?



The occurrence of unpleasant taste and odour in water is common throughout the world. These tastes and odours can be due to a variety of factors, such as: seasonal changes in the source water, chlorine, location in town and household plumbing.

Musty or Earthy Taste

This taste is linked to particular types of algae. Although typical treatment systems remove many components to make your water safe and enjoyable to drink, they do not remove one particular taste component that comes from algae in rivers. This musty or earthy taste may last for a few weeks. Despite the taste, the water remains safe to drink.

Chlorine tastes



People often describe the chlorine taste as being "chemical" or liken it to drinking water from a swimming pool.

Chlorine is widely used throughout the world as an effective means of disinfecting water and is added at a level that ensures a small amount remains when the water reaches the household tap. The amount of chlorine present must be within guideline values prescribed in NZ Drinking Water Standards.

Hauraki District Council monitors chlorine levels in water to ensure compliance with the standard. When water meets these requirements there may be a chlorine taste to some people. However, this chlorine residual provides for continued safe drinking water by ensuring any "bugs" are killed.

Rubber or plastic tastes



These kinds of tastes and odours are most commonly caused by hoses used for gardens, dishwashers, washing machines and irrigation systems. A small amount of water from these hoses can sometimes be recirculated back into the house, making water taste unusual.

Other types of tastes and odours

Although not common, other taste and odours may be experienced when drinking water. These can be related to home plumbing and/or operational procedures at the treatment plant or within reticulation. To determine the likely cause may require a detailed investigation.

