

**MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY**

124 PARK & POOL ROAD  
NEW STANTON, PA 15672

PR9RT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GREENSBURG, PA  
PERMIT NO.1

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. *(This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak to someone who understands it.)*

Chloramine



# 2022 WATER QUALITY REPORT



To view the Annual Water Quality Report electronically, please go to <http://www.mawc.org/ccr>  
EXCEPT WHERE NOTED,  
DRINKING WATER WE PROVIDE MEETS OR EXCEEDS ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT STANDARDS

# A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR PEOPLE WITH SEVERELY WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEMS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The Environmental Protection Agency and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

- Your doctor or other healthcare provider.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at (800) 342-2437; or on-line at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/cryptosporidiosis/default.htm>
- United States Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection at (412) 442-4000 or on-line at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/WSM/WSM—DWM/Complian/Protozoa.htm>

## DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION

The Indian Creek and George R. Sweeney Water Plants change disinfection residual from Chloramine to Free Chlorine annually from mid-October to mid-May. This switch is necessary to maintain proper bacteriological protection in our drinking water while limiting Disinfection By-Product (DBP) formation. Customers may notice a chlorine taste and odor in the water during this period.

In the chloramination process, ammonia and chlorine are combined in carefully controlled proportions to maximize their disinfection potential and minimize the formation of DBPs in your drinking water during the warmer months when rapid DBP formation occurs. Monochloramine provides a stable disinfectant residual throughout the MAWC distribution system during this time that inhibits the growth of bacteria in pipelines and water storage tanks. Additionally, chloramination reduces the chlorine taste and odor in the tap water during this time.

The switch from free chlorine residuals to chloramine residuals is posted on the MAWC website at [www.mawc.org](http://www.mawc.org) prior to switchover.

### Required Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Statement Addressing Lead in Drinking Water

"If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. MAWC is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>."

## THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY IS PROUD TO REPORT THAT THE DRINKING WATER WE PROVIDE MEETS OR EXCEEDS ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT STANDARDS

The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) is committed to providing our consumers with reliable and affordable supply of high-quality drinking water. We test our water using sophisticated equipment and advanced analytical procedures. MAWC water meets or exceeds state and federal standards for both appearance and safety. This annual "Consumer Confidence Report," required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, tells you where your water comes from, what our tests show about it, and other things you should know about drinking water.

### AN EXPLANATION OF THE WATER-QUALITY DATA TABLE

The table presented herein shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the major sources of the contaminants, footnotes explaining the words and abbreviations used in the table. Many tests were conducted for other parameters including trace metals, pesticides, herbicides, and numerous organic chemicals such as industrial wastes and solvents. There was no detection of these contaminants. **MAWC does not fluoridate any of the water supplied from our treatment facilities.**

### IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminant. Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectant to control microbial contamination. Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, may trigger additional treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. Treatment Technique (TT): A water Treatment Process that is established by the EPA in lieu of an MCL if the EPA finds that it is not "economically technically feasible" to determine the level of the contamination.

### HEALTH INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hot-line 800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

# The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County 2022 Annual Water Quality Report

PARAMETER	UNIT	MCL	MCLG	BEAVER RUN SYSTEM			INDIAN CREEK SYSTEM			UNIT	MCL	MCLG	MAJOR SOURCES		
				Meets or Exceeds Compliance Standards	Year Sampled	Highest Compliance Level Detected	Range of Detection	Meets or Exceeds Compliance Standards	Year Sampled					Highest Compliance Level Detected	Range of Detection
Total Chlorine Residual															
Entry Point	ppm	0.2	MinRDL	✓	2022		1.03-2.88	✓	2022		0.2	MinRDL	Water Treatment Chemical added for Disinfection		
Distribution (RAA)	ppm	4.0	MRDL	✓	2022		0.2-2.66	✓	2022		4.0	MRDL			
<b>ORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>															
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	0	✓	2022	62.7*	30.0-97.2	✓	2022	66.5*	34.3 -104.0	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	0	✓	2022	53.4*	5.88-77.8	✗	2022	65.3*	19.8 - 112.0	ppb	60	0	
VOCs ##	ppb		0	✓	2022	ND		✓	2022	ND		ppb		0	
SOCs ##	ppb		0	✓	2022	ND		✓	2022	ND		ppb		0	

<b>TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT)</b>															
Turbidity	NTU	0.3	0	✓	2022	0.198	(a)	✓	2022	0.17	(a)	NTU	0.3	0	Soil runoff
Bacteria		>5.0%		✓	2022	A	0.2%	✓	2022	A	0.1%		>5.0%		
LT2 (Cryptosporidium oocysts/L)	Source water			✓	2017	ND		✓	2018	ND		Source water			Animal feces
<b>Total Organic Carbon (TOC)</b>															
						range required	range achieved			range required	range achieved				Natural decaying matter
	ppm	TT		✓	2022	35%	0.0-48.3%(b)	✓	2022	35%	24.7-52.3%(b)	ppm	TT		

<b>INORGANIC CHEMICALS</b>															
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	✓	2022	0.49	(c)	✓	2022	1.03	(c)	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; septic tanks, sewage; erosion
Nitrite	ppm	1	0	✓	2022	ND		✓	2022	ND		ppm	1	0	
Barium	ppm	2	2	✓	2022	0.031		✓	2022	0.033		ppm	2	2	Mine discharge; drilling waste; Cu Smelting
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	✓	2022	0.199		✓	2022	ND		ppm	4	4	Natural deposits; Water Treatment addition
Mercury	ppm	2		✓	2022	ND		✓	2022	ND		ppm	2		Erosion, runoff from landfill/crop lands.
Asbestos	MFL	7	0	✓	2021	ND		✓	2022	ND		MFL	7	0	Asbestos cement/ Transit Mains
Cyanide (Free)	ppm	0.2		✓	2022	ND		✓	2022	0.009		ppm	0.2		Mining extraction, Steel production
<i>Other- (See Table for full list)</i>															
				✓	2022	ND		✓	2022	ND					

<b>RADIOACTIVE</b>															
Gross Alpha particles ##	pCi/L	15		✓	2014	0.0		✓	2020	0.0		pCi/L	15		Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium -226 ##	pCi/L	5		✓	2014	0.0		✓	2020	0.0		pCi/L	5		
Radium -228 ##	pCi/L	5		✓	2014	0.0		✓	2020	0.0		pCi/L	5		
Total Uranium ##	ug/l	30		✓	2020	0.0		✓	2020	0.0		ug/l	30		

## Radionuclides as well as an extensive list of Organic chemicals were also analyzed for the Raw water intake on the Beaver Run Reservoir. This Data can be viewed on the MAWC.org website.

LEAD AND COPPER		BEAVER RUN SYSTEM				
	EPA Action level	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)	Meets or Exceeds Compliance	Year Sampled	90th Percentile	Highest Level Detected
Lead**	90% of Samples <15ppb	0 ppb	✓	2022	0	9.0
Copper**	90% of Samples <1.3ppm	1.3 ppm	✓	2022	0.146	0.51

INDIAN CREEK SYSTEM					Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)	MAJOR SOURCES
Meets or Exceeds Compliance	Year Sampled	90th Percentile	Highest Level Detected			
✓	2022	0	31.0	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing ;Erosion of natural deposits	
✓	2022	0	0.18	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing ;Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.	

### Annual Regulated Inorganic Analytes (IOC's)

Antimony	Fluoride
Arsenic	Mercury
Barium	Nickel
Beryllium	Selenium
Cadmium	Thallium
Chromium	Cyanide

### Annual Regulated Organic Analytes (VOC's)

Benzene	Ethylbenzene
Carbon Tetrachloride	Monochlorobenzene
1,2- Dichloroethane	Styrene
o-,m- Dichlorobenzene	Tetrachloroethylene
p- Dichlorobenzene	Toluene
1,1- Dichloroethylene	1,2,4- Trichlorobenzene
cis-1,2- Dichloroethylene	1,1,1- Trichloroethane
Dichloromethane	Trichloroethylene
1,2- Dichloropropane	Vinyl Chloride
Xylene	

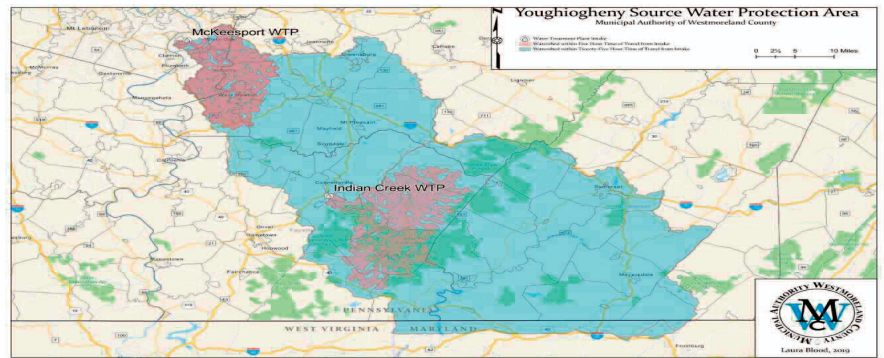
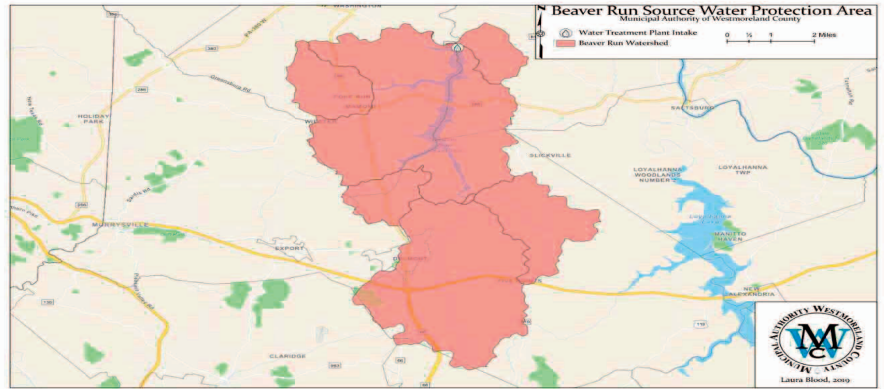
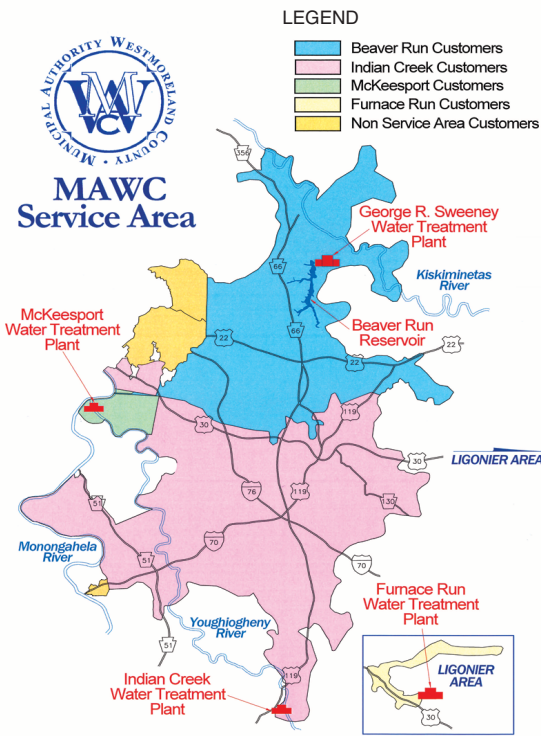
### Triennial Synthetic Organic Analytes (SOC's)

Lindane	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene
Methoxychlor	Carbofuran
Endothall	Alachlor
Di-2-Ethylhexyl Adipate	Benzo Pyrene
Oxymal	Pentachlorophenol
Simazine	1,2-Dibromo-3-Chloropropanol
Di-2-Ethylhexyl Phthalate	Ethylene Dibromide
Piclorem	Chlordane
Endrin	2,3,7,8-TCCD (Dioxin)
Toxaphene	Heptachlor
Dalapon	Heptachlor Epoxide
Diquat	2,4-D
Glyphosate	2,4,5- TP Silvex
Dinoseb	Hexachlorobenzene
Atrazine	PCBs

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

If you have questions or comments concerning the information presented in this report or aspects of the MAWC's operations, please contact Mark Stoner at 724-755-5882. Likewise, you may visit our web site at [www.mawc.org](http://www.mawc.org). Furthermore, the MAWC Board of Directors meets at noon on the third Wednesday of each month at the New Stanton Office located at 124 Pool & Park Road New Stanton, PA 15672 unless otherwise publicized in the Pittsburgh/Greensburg Tribune Review. MAWC Board meetings are open to the public.



**Water-Quality Table Footnotes**

- \* as RAA. Compliance based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) for each sample site.
- \*\* If any sample exceeds the AL for Lead or Copper, the customer is immediately notified and investigative samples are taken in an attempt to determine the cause.
- (a) 100% of samples in compliance.
- (b) In months that the percent achieved was below required, there was no exceedance of the TT because MAWC met alternative compliance criteria as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act
- (c) Only one sample was required per monitoring period.

ND = Non-Detect; A = Absent (Bacteria); RAA= Running Annual Average; LRAA= Locational Running Annual Average; UCMR4 = Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule 4; MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; NE = No MCL or MCLG established; pCi/L = picoCurie per liter; ug/l = micrograms per liter; ppm = parts per million; ppb = parts per billion; MFL = microfibers per liter; NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units; E.P. = Entry Point; Max D = Maximum Distribution Detention time; MinRDL = Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level; LT2 = Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, addresses the health effects associated with Cryptosporidium in surface water.

**X:** Indicates category out of compliance for the 2022 year. During the 4th Quarter sample for Haloacetic acids (Disinfection By-Product), one sample of the 7 required sites, produced a running annual average to fall above the maximum limit for these compounds. After both treatment and distribution optimization, follow-up samples indicated that the issue was resolved. The next compliance sample (Collected January 2023) brought the running annual average back into compliance, below the 60ppb MCL.

## SOURCE WATER

### SOURCE WATER INFORMATION

#### GEORGE R. SWEENEY WATER TREATMENT PLANT PWSID: 5650032

Water Source: Beaver Run Reservoir  
Reservoir Capacity: 11 Billion Gallons  
Treatment Plant Capacity: 24 Million Gallons per Day  
2022 Average Production: 20.4 Million Gallons per Day

#### McKEESPORT WATER TREATMENT PLANT PWSID: 5020025

Water Sources: Youghiogheny River  
Intake Location: McKeesport, PA  
Treatment Plant Capacity: 10 Million Gallons per Day  
2022 Average Production: 6.6 Million Gallons per Day

#### INDIAN CREEK WATER TREATMENT PLANT PWSID: 5260036

Water Source: Youghiogheny River  
Intake Location: Dunbar Township, Fayette County  
Treatment Plant Capacity: 45 Million Gallons per Day  
2022 Average Production: 33.5 Million Gallons per Day

#### FURNACE RUN WATER TREATMENT PLANT PWSID: 5650031

Water Source: Greater Johnstown Water Authority  
Intake Location: Ligonier Twp.  
Treatment Plant Capacity: 500,000 Gallons per Day  
2022 Average Production: 0.54 Million Gallons per Day

MAWC has Source water intakes on the Youghiogheny River and Beaver Run Reservoir. The MAWC's Indian Creek and McKeesport Filtration Plants draw water from the Youghiogheny River and the George R. Sweeney Filtration Plant draws from the Beaver Run Reservoir. Original assessments found that the aforementioned water sources are potentially most susceptible to accidental spills along major transportation corridors, releases of raw and/or under treated sewage, and storm water runoff from developed and/or agricultural areas. Finally, the Beaver Run Reservoir could be susceptible to problems associated with natural gas exploration, drilling, transportation and storage.

Get a copy of MAWC's Source Water Protection Plans and 2022 update by calling Duane Goodsell at: 724-727-2300 ext. 4. The source water protection area for the George R. Sweeney Filtration plant is shown as the Beaver Run Source Water Protection Area. The McKeesport and Indian Creek Filtration plants' Source Water Protection Area is shown as the Youghiogheny Source Water Area .

The Beaver Run Reservoir and the Youghiogheny River are generally clean and have greatly improved water quality over the decades thanks to the Clean Water Act of 1972 and its amendments, acid mine drainage remediation, and efforts of local watershed groups and conservation districts. However, more work needs to be done to address changes in land use development and the environment over time. Our source water protection vision is to Engage communities of both place and interest to preserve, protect, and improve water quality through shared goals and actions in order to provide an ample, clean, and affordable water supply.

Our source water protection plans identified that our source waters are most susceptible to non-point source pollution, accidental spills along transportation corridors, land disruptions, mine discharges, underground petroleum transmission pipelines, petroleum storage tanks, and sewage treatment plant discharges.

#### What have we been doing?

- ✓ We have an updated source water protection webpage where you can see if you live within our source water protection area, read our latest newsletter, look up potential sources or contamination and collaborate with other watershed groups. This can be found at <https://www.mawc.org/m/main-menu/5315>.
- ✓ MAWC became a nationally recognized source water collaborative in 2021. Go to the Source Water Collaborative's online map to learn more: <https://sourcewatercollaborative.org/how-to-collaborate-toolkit/map>.
- ✓ We have been working with 3rd party experts to develop management strategies for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

#### What you can do to help:

- Notify the authorities of any spills or incidents in the watershed. Contact the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Southwest Regional Office 24-hour phone number at 412-442-4000 to report any incidents.
- Dispose of pharmaceuticals and household hazardous waste like batteries and paint at the proper disposal facilities. You can find a household hazardous waste clean program near you at <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/RecyclingDisposal/HouseholdHazardousWaste/Pages/default.aspx>.
- Clean up after your pets and limit the use fertilizers and pesticides.
- Look for local opportunities to take part in watershed activities.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED WATER QUALITY QUESTIONS

**Q. Is Fluoride added to MAWC water?**

**A.** MAWC does not add fluoride to the water that is produced at our three (3) water treatment plants.

The water that MAWC receives from Greater Johnstown Water Authority to supply the Ligonier service area does not contain fluoride since 2017.

**Q. Why does my drinking water sometimes look cloudy when first taken from a faucet and then clear up?**

**A.** The cloudy water is caused by tiny air bubbles in the water similar to the gas bubbles in carbonated soft drinks. AFTER a while, the bubbles rise to the top and are gone. This type of cloudiness occurs more often in the winter because the colder water holds more dissolved air. Air can be introduced into the water after pipe repairs or other service disruptions. Call customer service for a main line flush if air is excessive after a leak.

**Q. There is a “pink slime” in my shower. Is it from the water?**

**A.** No, certain species of airborne bacteria gravitate towards and thrive in a moist environment, such as showers, toilet bowls, sink drains, tiles and dog dishes. These bacteria are naturally occurring and unattractive, but are generally harmless. The best way to avoid this problem is to keep the surfaces free from bacterial film through regular cleaning using Lysol or a chlorine-based product.

**Q. Is there anything I can do to eliminate the chlorine taste in my water?**

**A.** Yes, place a pitcher of water in your refrigerator for cool, fresh water anytime. Chlorine will dissipate with time and the water will taste fresh. Reverse Osmosis and activated carbon filters are also effective in removing chlorine from water, but choose a reputable vendor and be sure to follow the manufacturer’s instructions for installation and maintenance.

**Q. Why does the water have a “chlorine” smell in the winter time?**

**A.** MAWC adds chlorine to the drinking water to prevent water-borne disease outbreaks such as cholera, typhoid, giardiasis, etc. The chlorine must remain in the water for its entire journey to your spigot.

In the summertime MAWC combines ammonia with the chlorine to help carry the chlorine over the entire distribution system and reduce taste and odors caused by the warmer water. In the winter, MAWC eliminates the ammonia and adds only chlorine to the water. This chlorine eliminates any free ammonia in the system which left unchecked can cause bacterial growth. This “free” chlorine residual creates the off odors that you smell.

**Q. What are the black spots, rings or lines in toilets and shower stalls?**

**A.** Mold and mildew grow in places that are continually damp and are treated the same as pink slime.

**PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**