

# TAP WATER FAQs

## Is our tap water safe to drink?

Yes, our water is continually monitored and tested to ensure fresh, safe and clean water is delivered to your tap. All of the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partners meet or exceed all health-based standards for tap water quality. Water suppliers are highly regulated – with numerous tests and reports that are required to make public any information available about the quality and potential contaminants in our water.

The Sonoma County Water Agency provides high quality drinking water to eleven cities and water districts in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. These eleven cities and water districts are all part of the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership.



## What about lead in our water?

Our drinking water is very low risk for lead contamination. Water pipes are typically copper or plastic with few older homes having galvanized iron. In addition, lead service lines are not common and all new household plumbing fixtures are required to be lead free.

## What determines cost?

Water rates are determined by the cost of maintaining, operating, distributing and treating water. For more information about water rates in your area visit your agencies website.

## Where does our tap water come from?

Our water is from the Russian River and is pumped from wells about 100 feet below the river bed through a system called river bank filtration. Six groundwater wells, also known as collectors, pump the water through natural sands and gravels that act as a filtering system. The system produces high quality drinking water that does not face the water quality concerns that affect many public water systems throughout the United States.

## How do I know if tap water or bottled water is better?

Tap water is a better choice. Our water is safe, clean and fresh. It's also carefully monitored, and affordable. When we look at issues like quality, monitoring and affordability, we see that bottled water doesn't always measure up. Tap water is less than \$0.01/gallon, while bottled water can cost up to \$7.50/gallon.

Tap water is regulated by stringent standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. For quality, consistency and affordability, choose tap water.

## Why is our water cloudy?

Cloudy water is commonly caused by air in the water. One of the many properties of water is its ability to dissolve gases, including air. Sometimes the air comes back out of the water in the form of many tiny bubbles, giving the water a temporary milky white appearance.

## Why does our tap water smell like chlorine?

The Water Agency adds chlorine to its water supply to provide residual disinfection throughout its water transmission system. This is one of the ways we can ensure our water is safe. You can easily get rid of the smell by filling up a pitcher of water and letting it sit for a few minutes. The chlorine smell will dissipate.

## Is our water fluoridated?

No. We do not add fluoride to the tap water.