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## Particles in Water:

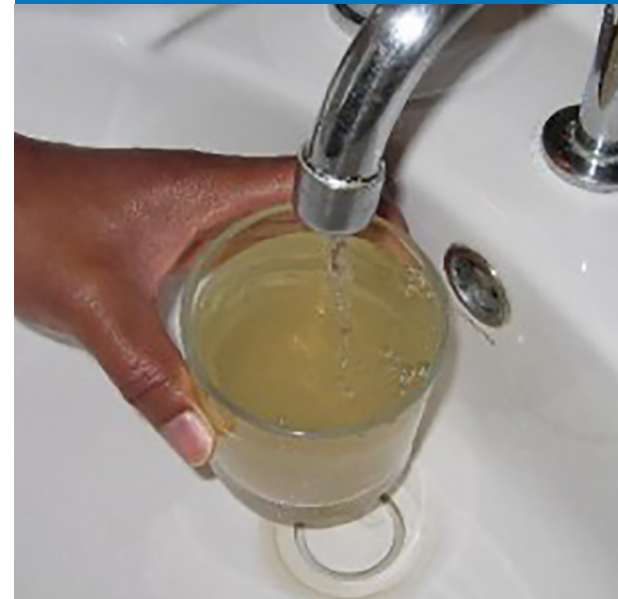
Visible particles are generally an accumulation of iron.

If your home or business is experiencing discolored water, please report it to WSSC's Emergency Response Call Center at 301-206-4002 or via email at [EmergencyCallCenter@wsscwater.com](mailto:EmergencyCallCenter@wsscwater.com).



*Established in 1918, WSSC is currently among the largest water and wastewater utilities in the nation, with a network of nearly 5,600 miles of fresh water pipeline and over 5,400 miles of sewer pipeline. Our service area spans nearly 1,000 square miles in Prince George's and Montgomery counties, and we serve 1.8 million residents through approximately 460,000 customer accounts. WSSC drinking water has always met or exceeded federal standards.*

**[www.wsscwater.com](http://www.wsscwater.com)  
Customer Relations Office  
[cust-relations@wsscwater.com](mailto:cust-relations@wsscwater.com)  
301.206.4001**



# Discolored Water



Discolored water contains an accumulation of iron and manganese sediment from rusting cast iron pipes and/or from a buildup of chemical deposits on the pipes. Water steadily flowing at an even pace in one direction will not disturb

these deposits. However, if the water suddenly flows very fast or reverses direction, sediment and deposits are stirred up, resulting in discoloration. **So, while the water may not be aesthetically pleasing, it is OK to drink.**

## **Causes of Discolored Water:**

- Temporary increases in the water flow disturb the sediment.
- Closed WSSC valves may disturb the water flow of nearby mains causing a temporary increase or reversal of flow stirring up the sediment.
- Fully opening a fire hydrant for firefighting purposes can cause a sudden increase in flow, which may temporarily cause discoloration.
- New water mains might cause a change in established flow patterns and cause temporary discoloration.

## **Health Concerns:**

Discolored water is generally safe to drink for healthy individuals. However, individuals with compromised immune systems (such as cancer patients undergoing treatment, HIV positive individuals, transplant recipients, seniors, and infants), should take any precautions they would normally take with regular tap water and/or seek advice from their physician before consuming discolored water.

## **Household uses for Discolored Water:**

Discolored water can be used for showering, flushing toilets, cleaning floors, and the like.

### **WSSC does not recommend using discolored water to do laundry.**



If clothing gets stained, immediately wash the clothes again using a rust remover product. This type of product is available in most supermarkets or you can contact WSSC at 301-206-4001, 1-800-634-8400, or contact us online and request a stain remover. For better results, do not let the clothes dry.