



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chlorine Taste and Odor

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission has recently adjusted the disinfection process at West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant. Some consumers may notice a slight chlorine taste or odor in the drinking water as a result. Chlorine levels in Springfield's drinking water remain well below the maximum limits established by the EPA and MassDEP, and the water is safe to drink.

Chlorine is a disinfectant that is commonly used to treat drinking water. Disinfection of drinking water is vital to protecting the public against disease. Chlorine is a disinfectant that kills bacteria and viruses that can enter a water system. The use of chlorine and other disinfectants has virtually eliminated instances of waterborne diseases in the United States and other developed countries. Disinfection of drinking water is required by state and federal regulations.

Chlorine residual is a level of chlorine that remains in the drinking water after it is initially added to ensure the water stays safe as it passes through the distribution piping system. The Commission has always maintained detectable chlorine residual levels within the distribution system. Recently, the Commission has adopted a more proactive approach to drinking water disinfection with the goal of maintaining higher chlorine residuals at all points in the system.

Sensitivity to the taste and odor of chlorine varies among consumers. Some may be able to smell/taste chlorine at much lower levels than others. Consumers who experience this can take the following steps:

- Fill a clean pitcher with water and place it in the refrigerator. The chlorine will dissipate over a period of several hours.
- Activated carbon water filters can reduce taste and odor associated with chlorine. These filters are available in the form of pitchers and faucet attachments.

Additional information regarding chlorine and drinking water may be found on the Commission's website at <http://waterandsewer.org/education-and-community/chlorine-faqs/>.



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The Commission supplies drinking water to Springfield, Ludlow, Agawam, East Longmeadow, and Longmeadow. Springfield and Ludlow customers with additional questions may contact the Commission at 413-310-3501. Residents of other communities should contact their local water authority:

Longmeadow: 413-567-3400

East Longmeadow: 413-525-5400 ext. 1200

Agawam: 413-821-0600

END