



## Temperature

### COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Why is the temperature of the water from my cold tap sometimes quite high?

It is quite common for the water to be hot when the cold tap is first turned on. The cause of this is heating of the household piping in the roof space, or where it is exposed to direct sunlight, such as at the meter. In Perth, some of the water we use is from artesian aquifers that is naturally hot. While this water is blended with other, cooler sources of water, the overall effect is to increase the temperature of the water supply in some areas.

The sun can also heat water passing through the above ground pipelines. This is mostly experienced in country schemes where the water has to travel long distances, such as the Goldfields & Agricultural Water Supply Scheme, the Great Southern Town Water Supply Scheme and the West Pilbara Water Supply Scheme.

#### Is the water harmful to drink?

Although the water may not taste as pleasant as when it is cold, it is not harmful to drink. The effectiveness of chlorine, as a disinfectant, actually increases with higher temperatures.

#### What can I do if I am experiencing a higher than normal water temperature from my cold tap?

For most purposes, such as washing and cooking, this should not pose a problem, but if a cold drink of water is required, try running the tap for a short period. If the cause of the heating is the household pipework, the water will soon run cold. Water wastage can be minimised by collecting this water in a container for use on pot plants or the garden.

Running the tap will not be effective if the high temperature is due to above ground pipelines or the use of artesian water. In these cases, water for cold drinks should be stored in closed containers in the fridge.

#### What is the Water Corporation doing to minimise the effect of increased water temperatures?

The Water Corporation takes the following steps to minimise the effect on customers:

- Informing customers of the causes of the problem and what they can do about it
- Designing to reduce the potential for high temperature water, such as burying pipelines, aerating into tanks and reservoirs, and minimising detention in the system
- Operating and maintaining systems to minimise temperature increases through processes such as blending artesian water with cooler source water, and painting exposed pipework white
- Researching cost effective ways to help minimise temperatures in pipelines.

#### Where can I get more information?

Further advice on water quality is available through the Water Corporation's 24-hour Service Faults and Emergencies number **13 13 75**

To the best of the knowledge of the Water Corporation, its directors, officers and staff, the information provided in this bulletin is correct, scientifically accurate and supported by current data. The statements made in this bulletin are based on Australian and international standards in effect as at the time of publication.