



Swampy Taste and Odour

Outbreaks of swampy taste and odour have occurred intermittently over many years from the extremities of reticulation systems supplied from some of Perth's Groundwater Schemes.

The Water Corporation, as a result of prolonged investigations with Curtin University, has identified that a naturally occurring compound known as Dimethyl Trisulphide (DMTS), which forms in the reticulation system, is the cause of the taste and odour within Perth's groundwater scheme. DMTS occurs naturally in vegetables such as cabbage and garlic. The presence of DMTS at trace levels sometimes results in the water having an objectionable taste and odour. This, in turn, is detected by some customers who are sensitive to this taste and odour.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When can it occur?

The occurrence of this odour (DMTS) is sporadic and unpredictable. One factor that has been found to promote the formation of the odour is a low chlorine level within the water supply system.

Is the water harmful to drink?

DMTS is a compound which occurs naturally in foods such as vegetables like cabbage and garlic. It poses no health risk.

What is the Water Corporation doing to minimise the problem?

The Water Corporation, in 2001, added a new treatment process at Wanneroo Water Treatment Plant to minimise the potential formation of the DMTS compound within the drinking water. Since then no significant outbreak of swampy taste and odour has occurred. The Water Corporation will continue to monitor the incidence of complaints in areas elsewhere to see whether this additional process is warranted at other treatment plants.

What should I do if I experience this odour in the water, or require further information?

Flush water from an internal tap for about 30 seconds. This will generally remove the stagnant water from within the internal pipes which may have allowed the odour to form. The water used to carry out this flushing is equivalent to the water used in flushing a toilet.

If the odour persists or you would like further information

Please contact the Water Corporation's 24 hour Service Faults and Emergencies on **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.