Do I need to use a home water treatment device?

As this Water Quality Report shows, your water supply is carefully managed and your tap water meets and exceeds all of the standards established by EPA for safe drinking water. Therefore, a home water treatment device is not necessary to make your water safe to drink. If you wish to use a treatment device, be sure to select a unit approved by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), an independent, nonprofit organization that evaluates these units. Also, be sure to properly maintain the device to avoid water quality problems. (Visit www.nsf.com.)

Does the City add fluoride to the water?

Yes. Since the 1950's, fluoride has been added to our community's water for its dental health benefits. Fluoride is of particular interest to parents of young children as studies have shown that it strengthens tooth enamel and inhibits the production of acid by decay-causing bacteria in dental plaque. The American Dental Association has endorsed fluoridation for over 20 years, and the Center for Disease Control has declared fluoridation one of the ten greatest public health advances of the century due to substantially reduced cavity rates. Our target fluoride level is 1 ppm, which is the level that health experts have determined to be optimal for dental health.

My water sometimes has a white cloudiness when it first comes from the faucet and then it clears up. Why is that?

The white cloudiness is caused by tiny air bubbles in the water. This type of cloudiness forms when water travels through pipes at high speed and meets an obstruction such as a valve or elbow. After a while the bubbles will rise to the top and be gone, leaving the water clear.

Is it OK to use hot water from the tap for cooking or making baby formula?*

No. Using cold water is recommended. Hot water is more likely to contain impurities, such as rust, copper and lead from your household plumbing and hot water heater. Hot water dissolves these contaminants more quickly than cold water.

How much sodium is in our water?

Our treated surface water, which accounts for 96% of the water used in 2000, contains 9 ppm of sodium. Jordan and Marks Wells, which supplied the other 4%, contain around 40 ppm. There is no established limit for sodium in water, but levels over 20 ppm are considered significant for those on a sodium-restricted diet. (Note: 9 ppm is the same as 9 milligrams per liter.)

The instructions for my dishwasher call for different amounts of soap depending on water hardness. What is hardness and how hard is my water?

Water hardness is a measure of dissolved minerals in the water, mainly calcium and magnesium, and is a result of water being in contact with rocks or soil. Well water is normally higher in hardness than surface water because of the time it is in contact with minerals in the ground. Hardness interferes with the sudsing action of soap. During most of the year your water has a low hardness of about 25 ppm (1.5 grains per gallon). If well water is used during the summer, the hardness of the water you receive will vary, up to a high of 170 ppm (10 grains per gallon).