

FUN WATER FACTS!

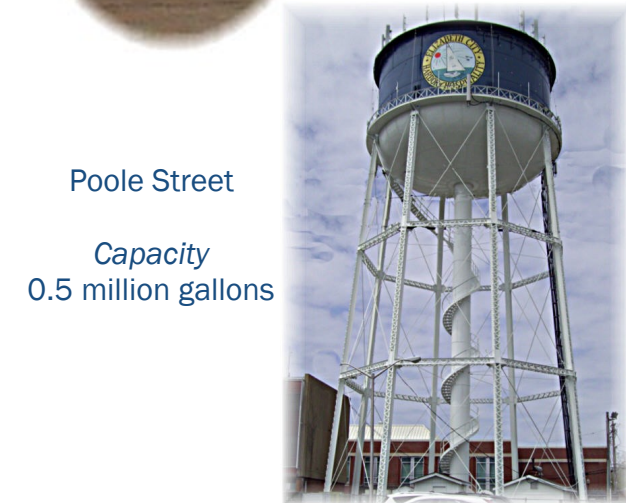
- * There is the same amount of water on earth as there was when the earth was formed. The water from your faucet could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank.
- * Water is composed of two elements, Hydrogen and Oxygen:
 $2 \text{ Hydrogen} + 1 \text{ Oxygen} = \text{H}_2\text{O}$
- * Nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for all of humanity's needs... all agricultural, residential, manufacturing, community and personal needs.
- * Water regulates the earth's temperature. It also regulates the temperature of the human body, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells, cushions joints, protects organs and tissues and removes wastes.
- * 75% of the human brain is water and 75% of a living tree is water.
- * The average total home water use for each person in the U.S. is about 50 gallons per day.
- * Water expands by 9% when it freezes. Frozen water (ice) is lighter than water, which is why ice floats in water.

ELEVATED STORAGE TANKS



Weeksville Road

Capacity
1 million gallons



Poole Street

Capacity
0.5 million gallons



Halstead
Boulevard

Capacity
0.5 million gallons

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- ELIZABETH CITY - WATER TREATMENT FACILITY



1926



2019

The Elizabeth City Water Treatment Facility is a Spanish Colonial Revival style building designed by William C. Olsen, Consulting Engineers!

Frequently Asked Questions About Your Drinking Water

What is that white stuff in my coffee pot and on my glassware?

Dissolved minerals in water settle out when water is heated. When water evaporates these dissolved minerals are left behind as white spots on glassware. To remove the deposits in coffee pots, add white vinegar to the pot and let it sit overnight. Pouring the excess hot water out of your coffee pot when finished with it will help somewhat in preventing this problem. Prevent white spots on glassware from forming by drying the glassware with a towel.

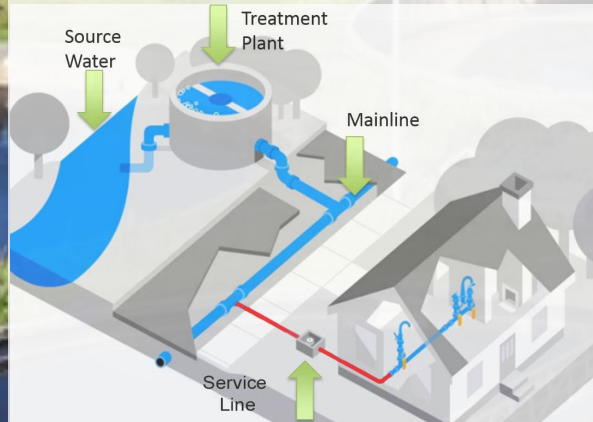
Why does my water taste or smell “funny” ?

Three common reasons:

- I. Chlorine can cause a noticeable taste. This can be minimized by keeping a closed glass container with water in the refrigerator. Warm drinking water has more taste than cold water. Adding 1–2 teaspoons of lemon juice to refrigerated drinking water may result in a more pleasing taste.
- II. A rotten-egg odor is usually caused from small amounts of hydrogen sulfide which is found in some groundwater wells. This is more noticeable in hot water especially when there is very little hot water usage in the household.
- III. Metallic tastes can come from copper that has dissolved from copper pipe and from iron from rusting iron pipes. Usually this problem occurs when the water supply is considered corrosive. Elizabeth City’s water supply contains calcium carbonate hardness which tends to form a scale on pipes and prevents the dissolving of metal pipes.

Why does my water have a yellow tint?

The City of Elizabeth City’s source water is drawn from shallow groundwater wells in the upper Yorktown aquifer. This area is largely low-lying wetland. Dissolved organic matter such as humus and other decaying plant matter, and dissolved organic acids such as tannins within the soil are responsible for yellow or tea colored water. The age of our distribution system also contributes somewhat to the color of the water. Even though the water may be displeasing to the eye the color presents no health hazard and meets all current state and federal regulations.



Why does my water look “milky”?

This could be caused by tiny air bubbles in the water. This can be confirmed by filling a glass with water and observe it. If the water clears from the bottom to the top fairly quickly, it is air in the water. Another cause of cloudiness in cold water comes from calcium. Elizabeth City’s water contains calcium carbonate and when it is cold the calcium carbonate will precipitate out and settle to the bottom of the glass. This can also be seen in ice trays as a white powder. Calcium carbonate is perfectly safe to drink or use for cooking.

REASONS TO DRINK WATER

- * Water is essential to the human body’s survival. A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water
- * Water helps increase energy levels. The most common cause of daytime fatigue is actually mild dehydration
- * Drinking adequate amounts of water can decrease the risk of certain types of cancers, including colon cancer, bladder cancer and breast cancer
- * For a majority of sufferers, drinking water can significantly reduce joint and/or back pain
- * Water leads to overall greater health by flushing out wastes and bacteria that can cause disease
- * Water can prevent and alleviate headaches
- * Water naturally moisturizes skin and ensures proper cellular formation underneath layers of skin to give it a healthy glowing appearance
- * Water aids in the digestion process and prevents constipation
- * Water is the primary mode of transportation for all nutrients in the body and is essential for proper circulation



BOTTLED WATER

You don’t need to purchase bottled water for health reasons as Elizabeth City’s water supply meets current federal and state drinking water standards. If you want a drink with a different taste, you can buy bottled water, but keep in mind it costs up to 1,000 times more than municipal drinking water. Of course, in emergencies bottled water can be a vital source of drinking water for people without water. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires bottled water quality standards to be equal to those of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for tap water, but the quality of the finished product is not government monitored. Bottled water companies must test their source water and finished product once a year. Remember, if you use bottled water, consider it a food and refrigerate it after opening.