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Drinking Water:

About Aesthetics

Hardness

Water hardness, perhaps the most commonly recognized aspect of "secondary" water quality, is caused by the presence of certain minerals in the water. More specifically, it is measured by the amount of calcium and magnesium the water contains. These minerals get into the water supply usually from contact with naturally occurring limestone and deposits of magnesium salts.

While completely safe to drink, hard water can have some annoying and cost-related qualities. First, hard water interferes with the ability of soaps and detergents to clean. It consumes the soap, which requires more to be used to achieve the same results. In addition, hard water can leave whitish spots or scales on anything from cars to dishes. Lastly, it often leaves a scum-like residue on such things as sinks, tubs and dishes. The way to get rid of hardness is to reduce or remove the amount of minerals in the water.

Brentwood's water hardness averages 376.1mg/l. If you have a water softener we suggest you set the dial for 21 grains and adjust if needed. Other aesthetics tested for are taste & odor and color which are listed on Page 7 in the Secondary Standard results.