



YOUR DRINKING WATER

Naturally-Occurring Taste, Odor, and Color Changes

The Missouri River, which begins in the Rocky Mountains of western Montana and flows into the Mississippi River, near St. Louis, Missouri, is the longest river in North America and the source of Kansas City, Missouri's drinking water. Utilizing the Missouri River, KC Water produces hundreds of millions of gallons of drinking water each day for hundreds of thousands of customers.

- Throughout the year, the natural cycle of spring rains, snowmelt, fall leaves, temperature changes, and turnover on upstream reservoirs causes rapid changes in the water characteristics of the Missouri River. This means the river becomes very muddy due to the silt and natural organic matter that is carried downstream by the River.
- Sometimes, this organic process can result in earthy and musty odors and other natural flavors, as well as a slight greenish tint in your drinking water. Depending on each individual's unique sense of smell and taste, you may or may not notice these slight natural changes. Thankfully, the compounds which cause these changes come from nature and do not cause health issues. These taste, odor, and color changes are oftentimes predictable – they come and go, lasting for a few weeks at a time.
- KC Water is able to respond to the naturally-occurring changes in the Missouri River by adjusting the water treatment process to reduce these natural taste, odor, and color variations. In addition, KC Water performs continuous monitoring and extensive laboratory testing of the drinking water that is supplied throughout Kansas City to ensure that safe water is delivered to you and that it meets all state and federal drinking water safety requirements, as well as the high water quality standards established by KC Water on behalf of our customers.

Questions?

If you have questions regarding taste, odor, and color changes, or if you would like to learn more about your drinking water, please contact KC Water's Laboratory at 816-513-7000 or water.quality@kcmo.org.

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