



YOUR WATER

Chartered in 1912, the Marin Municipal Water District is the first municipal water district in California. We are proud to provide 100 percent locally sourced water to more than 191,000 customers in central and southern Marin County.

About 75 percent of our water supply originates from rainfall on about 22,000 acres of our protected Mt. Tamalpais watershed and in the grassy hills of west Marin, with the remaining supply coming from neighboring Sonoma County's Russian River water system. Rainfall from the watershed flows into the district's seven reservoirs. The water is treated at our treatment plants before traveling through our extensive distribution system—including 908 miles of pipes, 130 storage tanks and 97 pump stations—and making its way to your home or business. It takes 24 hours for water to travel from a reservoir to a treatment plant and then through miles of underground mains into your faucet. Your cost per gallon of high-quality water delivered to your tap is about one cent.

Testing

Every year the district conducts more than 120,000 water quality and process control tests from watershed to faucet, to ensure your water is safe to drink. This includes ongoing process control testing at our treatment plants as well as laboratory testing of our water samples. Many of these samples undergo chemical, bacteriological and physical analyses in the district's water quality laboratory. We are proud to report that your water continued to meet or surpass all federal and state drinking water health standards.

Taste and Odor

Occasionally, during the warmer months, some customers experience a different taste or odor in their drinking water. Some describe the water as tasting and smelling earthy, musty, or moldy. This is caused by naturally occurring compounds produced by algae in our reservoirs. Algae are a natural phenomenon, particularly during the warm summer months, and are a reminder that our lakes are living water bodies.

During certain times of the year, we may also shift water sources from one reservoir to another to manage our water supply. These operational changes can result in customers noticing changes to the taste and smell of their tap water. These slight changes, which are common in lake water, do not affect the safety of your water. Your water is treated and meets or exceeds all state and federal requirements.

For those who are more sensitive to taste and odor changes, chilling the water during these periods will help reduce the temporary change in taste or smell of your water. For questions or for more information contact us at Water@MarinWater.org or at 415.945.1438.