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Manganese Concerns for Madison Water Utility

Madison Water Utility is currently investigating concerns of high manganese concentrations in a number of Madison neighborhoods. A task force, including health officials, water utility personnel and community representatives, continue to study the issue.

If manganese is dissolved in clear water, it is readily reduced with a functioning water softener. If manganese is present as a particle, causing the water to look dirty, in most cases it can be removed with a simple sediment filter before the water softener. Occasionally, a tank filter may be needed for large amounts of particulate manganese.

In the Madison area, it has been standard practice to plumb the kitchen cold faucet to supply hard water. Changing the pipes to provide soft, filtered water to the kitchen cold faucet will assure manganese reduction. If you do not prefer the taste of soft water, consider a reverse osmosis drinking water system for better quality drinking water.

If an evaluation of your current water softener is needed or you want manganese concerns addressed in your water supply, contact Hellenbrand Water Center at (608) 849-5717. For any health concerns associated with the issue, please contact your health care provider.