

水的真相

Facts About Water



水務署

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為何選擇世界衛生組織食水水質指引？



• 世界衛生組織(世衛)的食水水質指引，是由大約40個發展中以及發展國家的權威專家根據世界各地科學和醫學資料共同編訂而成的。誠然除了世衛以外，還有如美國和歐洲共同體所訂的相類指引。

• 世衛的指引共設94項標準，而美國及歐洲共同體的標準分別只有74及26項。地區性的標準只是因應其本土原水特質

制訂，我們無法把不同的標準直接比較。但整體而言，世衛的標準是有其代表性的。

Why are the World Health Organisation Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality chosen?

- The WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality are the consensus opinion of authoritative experts from some 40 developing and developed countries based on worldwide scientific and medical information. Apart from the Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality recommended by the WHO, there are of course other similar guidelines, such as the USEPA's (United States Environmental Protection Agency) and the EC's (European Community).
- There are 94 parameters in the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality while there are 74 in the USEPA standard and 26 in the EC standard. No direct comparison between these standards can be made because regional standards are set in accordance with the characteristics of their respective raw water. Overall, the WHO standard is representative of its kind.

我家的食水可由水龍頭直接飲用嗎？



- 若大廈管理做得妥善，經水務署濾水廠處理後的食水與其他先進國家地區一樣，可直接飲用，無須煮沸。
- 然而，當食水經大廈的水喉管送往用戶時，水質未必如濾水廠輸出時的品質一樣，原因是過去本港多採用無內搪層鍍鋅鋼管，這種喉管用上數年便開始生銹，當食水在生銹喉管內停留一段時間後即會變黃。
- 自1995年12月23日起，當局禁止使用無內搪層鍍鋅鋼管。要避免水管生銹令食水變黃，你可使用有內搪層鍍鋅鋼管、銅管、不銹鋼管和聚乙烯管等。

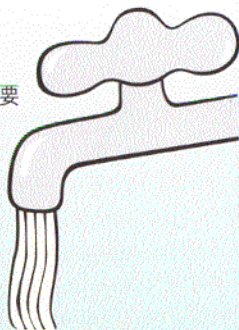
- 水箱的保養亦十分重要，水箱污濁也會影響水質，因此您必須注意及敦促大廈管理處要經常清洗水箱，並妥善維修及保養大廈的供水系統。如對供水系統的清潔有懷疑，可考慮將食水煮沸後才飲用。
- 居住在鄉村飲用天然水源的市民，則必須將食水煮沸後才可飲用。

Is the tap water at my home potable?

- The quality of water treated in WSD water treatment works is as good as that of many well-developed countries and regions. You can drink tap water without boiling on condition that the management of your building is done properly.
- When water is delivered to consumers' tap via inside plumbing, the quality may not be the same as the quality of water produced by the water treatment works. It is because unlined galvanized pipes were widely used in Hong Kong in the past. These pipes began to corrode after being in use for several years. Discoloured water results after water has been stagnant inside the pipe for a certain period of time.
- Since 23 December 1995, the use of unlined galvanized pipes has been prohibited. To avoid corrosion of pipes causing discoloured water, other pipe materials such as lined galvanized steel pipes, copper pipes, stainless steel pipes and polyethylene pipes are recommended.
- The maintenance of water storage tanks is also very important. Therefore, you should monitor the management office of your building to make sure that they regularly clean the water storage tanks and maintain the water supply system in good condition. If you have doubts about the cleanliness of the supply system in your building, you should consider boiling water for drinking.
- Villagers relying on wells or streams for drinking should always boil the water for drinking.

我家食水為什麼變黃？

- 雖然水務署在整個供水網絡中部署各個重要位置定期進行抽取水樣本的工作，時刻對供應給用戶的食水水質加以嚴格的控制和監察，藉此確保水質符合世衛所定的嚴格要求，但是由用戶水龍頭所抽取的食水水質在若干方面有時候仍可能受到屋內水管系統的狀況所影響。
- 食水變黃的現象往往因用戶大廈內的水管鏽蝕以致水中含有鐵質所造成，而食水如在水管內停留一夜後變黃的現象尤其顯著。在大多數情況下，雖然變黃的食水並不美觀，但是由於含鐵量極微，因此仍然適宜飲用。事實上，一般人每日從食物中所吸取的鐵質，遠遠超過從食水中所吸取的鐵質，飲用含有微量已溶解鐵質的水當不會有礙健康。



- 在正常情況下，只須開動水龍頭沖洗片刻，水帶微黃的問題通常可解決。至於食水變黃情況嚴重的個案，如需改善，則要更換水管。
- 有一點不可不知，根據水務設施規例的規定，用戶須負起妥善保養屋內喉管的責任。如發現水質因屋內水管系統的毛病而受到影響，有關用戶須僱用持牌水喉匠檢查屋內水管系統。以便就有關情況進行修補工程。

Why does the tap water at my home become discoloured?

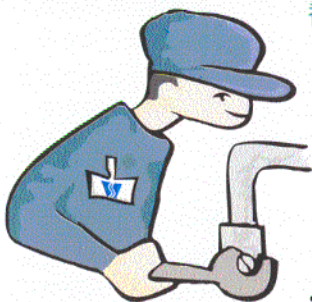
- Although the quality of water supplied to the consumers is strictly controlled and monitored at all times through regular sampling at strategic points of the entire supply network to ensure compliance with the stringent requirements of the World Health Organization, the quality of water drawn from consumers' taps may sometimes be affected in certain aspects by the condition of the inside plumbing.
- The phenomenon of discoloured water is often due to the presence of iron from rusty water pipes in the consumer's premises and is particularly noticeable after the water has been stagnant inside the pipe overnight. In most cases, although the water may be aesthetically unpleasant, it is still suitable for drinking as the amount of iron is very minute. Indeed the average person's daily intake of iron from consumption of food far exceeds that from drinking water, and humans suffer no harmful effect from drinking water with traces of dissolved iron.
- Under normal circumstances, the aesthetic problem can usually be overcome by running the tap for a few seconds. For the more serious cases, replacement of the water pipes may be necessary as a remedy.
- It should also be noted that according to the Waterworks Regulations, the consumer is responsible for the proper maintenance of the inside plumbing. If the water quality is found to be affected due to defects in the inside plumbing, the consumer is required to engage a licensed plumber to examine the inside plumbing and carry out remedial work accordingly.

為何我家的食水呈白色？

- 這是水中微小氣泡膨脹所造成的視覺現象。食水從喉管流出時，水壓便會降低，使食水中的微小氣泡膨脹，以致食水呈白色。
- 市面上一些水龍頭刻意使食水充滿氣泡，以減低食水從水龍頭流出時的壓力，避免濺濕附近地方。食水盛載在容器內片刻後，水中的氣泡會逐漸消失，食水清澈如常。

Why does tap water at my home become milky?

- This is a visual illusion caused by air bubbles in the water. Pressure drops when water comes out of the tap, as a result, the air bubbles expand and the water looks milky.
- In order to prevent water from splashing over, some water taps are specially designed to induce bubbles in water by lowering the pressure when water comes out of the tap. After a while the water will soon become clear in a container as the bubbles disappear.



香港食水可安全飲用嗎？

- 香港食水絕對安全，致癌的機會可以說是零。
- 因為無論過去或現在，香港平均每一公升食水的三氯甲烷(被視為可能致癌的物質)含量都少於50微克，遠遠低於世衛標準的每公升200微克。
- 事實上，日常生活中，我們從其他途徑所接觸的致癌物質比飲用食水更高，

而據科學研究結果顯示，一個人每日飲兩公升含有200微克三氯甲烷的食水，連續飲70年才有十萬分之一的機會致癌。

Is Hong Kong's treated water safe for consumption?

- Hong Kong's water is safe and the risk of getting cancer from drinking water is almost zero.
- Average chloroform (a substance considered as possibly carcinogenic to humans) levels in our water have remained less than 50 µg/litre for a long time, which is far lower than the WHO guideline value of 200 µg/litre.
- In our daily life, the chance of contact with carcinogenic substances through other channels is greater than that through drinking water. According to scientific research, the chance of getting cancer is less than 1 in 100,000 if you drink 2 litres of water containing 200 µg/litre chloroform everyday for 70 years.

為何送到我家的食水有輕微的氯氣味道？

- 由於香港大部份的居民都住在高樓大廈內，食水由濾水廠輸往天台水箱再送至用戶的過程需要一定時間，故此食水要有足夠的氯氣含量，以確保食水在輸送過程中和貯於水箱後仍然衛生。如果用戶有煮沸食水的習慣，水中的氯氣便會完全消失。

Why does the tap water contain a smell of chlorine?

- As the majority of Hong Kong people live in high-rise buildings, it may take a long time for the treated water from water treatment works to go through the roof tanks before reaching the consumers. A small amount of residual chlorine is maintained in the water to keep it free from bacteria during its journey in the distribution system. This minimal amount of chlorine will disappear if the water is boiled.

為什麼我的電熱水壺經常有一些沉澱物？

- 經處理的食水在視覺上是清澈透明的，其實香港食水屬於軟水類別，含有微量的礦物質。假如您經常使用電熱水壺，但用後並沒有徹底清洗，過了一段時間，礦物質便會積聚及黏附在電熱水壺內。
- 積聚在電熱水壺內的礦物質主要是鈣化物，這種現象在外國飲用硬水的地方比較普遍。微量的鈣化物不會對水質和健康構成威脅。
- 假如用戶要清洗電熱水壺，最簡單的方法是嘗試用少許檸檬汁，去清除黏附在或沉澱於電熱水壺內的礦物質。

Why are sediments often found in my electric kettle?

- In Hong Kong, the treated water is soft in nature and contains a small amount of minerals even though it is visually clear. If you do not wash the electric kettle after frequent use, sediments of minerals will accumulate in your electric kettle after some time.



- Minerals left in your kettle are mainly calcium salts, trace amounts of which will not adversely affect the water quality or your health. This phenomenon is more common in other countries using hard water.
- You can simply use lemon juice to remove the minerals that have accumulated in your electric kettle.