

Fostoria Drinking water FAQ's

Why does my tap water smell and taste dirty or musty?

The primary cause of the city of Fostoria drinking water taste and odors are MIB and geosmin released in the reservoirs due to low water levels and the cooler fall temperatures.

What is Geosmin and MIB?

Geosmin and 2-Methylisoborneol (MIB) are naturally occurring compounds that have an earthy/musty taste and odor. Geosmin and MIB do not pose a public health risk. Although these chemicals are harmless, the human senses of taste and smell are extremely sensitive to them and can detect them in the water at concentrations as low as 5 to 10 parts per trillion (ppt).

Is my water safe to drink?

While the taste and odor can be unpleasant, geosmin and MIB are not toxic or harmful. **The water remains safe to drink.** On-going testing continues to show an absence of harmful bacteria and other pathogens in the water.

What can I do to make my tap water taste better?

When Geosmin and MIB are noticeable, customers can add lemon juice and chill water in the refrigerator to improve the taste and reduce odors. Point of use drinking water carbon filter systems are sometimes effective at reducing odors and improving taste.

What is being done to remove the MIB and geosmin?

Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) is being added to the raw water to reduce the amount of MIB/geosmin prior to treatment and Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) has been ordered to replace the spent GAC filter media. Delivery of the GAC has been delayed by the manufacture due to material shortages.

Why does the GAC need replaced to remove MIB/geosmin?

The filter GAC can only adsorb so much of any compound. Once the GAC is full it cannot adsorb anything else (allowing MIB/geosmin to pass right through the filters). The only way to clean GAC is to have it removed and run through a kiln. It is more cost effective to remove spent GAC and replace it with new GAC.

What is the timeline to have this fixed?

The GAC in the filters should be completely replaced by November 11th. Flushing of dead end mains will start the following week. The taste and odor in the drinking water should be undetectable to most people by thanksgiving.