

Pataskala Utilities Department

At Home Water Test Kits



One of the most common question we hear at the water department is “how can I verify that my water is safe to drink?” Many times, citizens purchase an at home test kit so that they can test the water themselves. These kits usually consist of an absorbent strip of material, soaked in a reagent that will react when exposed to different minerals or chemicals present in the water. The reagents have a short shelf life once exposed to air and properly conducting the test without contaminating the sample is difficult.

Another option people tend to take is to have a sales representative for water treatment equipment test the water for them. These salespeople will conduct a water test, find chemicals used for disinfection as well as naturally occurring minerals in the water, and then use that information to convince their potential customer that the equipment they are selling can take those test results down to zero. Their equipment can indeed do this, but that type of water is not ideal for delivery through a public water distribution system.

So why don't we deliver drinking water that has zero hardness or zero alkalinity? The answer lies in the fact that water is a universal solvent, which means water will dissolve and absorb almost any substance that it contacts. When pumping water through miles of pipes in our distribution system, that water is in contact with the pipe materials for a significant amount of time. The water also enters private residences that have plumbing consisting of varying materials at varying ages. That private plumbing is not under the control of the Utility Department. To ensure that the drinking water provided to our customers is as safe as possible, we maintain a hardness level between 90 and 130 parts per million and a pH around 7.5. These concentrations are ideal for EPA compliance, and makes the water significantly less likely to pull unwanted contaminants (lead, copper, etc.) from older plumbing that often exists inside private residences.

The Utility Department contracts with a professional, EPA certified lab. Each day we test the water produced at both water plants as well as different locations in the distribution system to ensure the water quality is excellent. These tests are much more accurate than any at home tests and are run by professionals. **If you have concerns about contaminants in your drinking water, we will come out and take a sample from your tap to be run in our lab and give you accurate results, free of charge.**

The Utility Department takes your drinking water quality very seriously. There is plenty of misinformation available on social media, but we can provide an actual scientific analysis of your drinking water. An annual report known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) identifies any found contaminants in the water and can be found on the city website here: <http://www.cityofpataskalaohio.gov/city-departments/utilities/interesting-facts-and-information/>. If you ever have questions regarding the services that we provide, please don't hesitate to give us a call. We are here to help.

We are happy to answer any questions at: Utilities Department, 430 South Main St, 740-964-6275

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“Clean Water In, Clean Water Out”