

# Did *you* KNOW?

## Corrosion Inhibitors

BJWSA uses corrosion inhibitors, which may cause your filter to turn brown – but your water is still safe to drink!

## Why is my household water filter brown?

*Like many utilities, BJWSA uses phosphate as a corrosion inhibitor.*

SCDHEC requires that all public water systems maintain a corrosion control plan. BJWSA's corrosion control processes include pH adjustment and phosphate addition. This chemical addition will always be part of our treatment process. However, this process can also cause your filter to clog and turn brown and the filter will not last as long as the manufacturer advertises.

Public water systems commonly add phosphates to the drinking water as a corrosion inhibitor to prevent the leaching of lead and copper from pipes and fixtures. Inorganic phosphates (e.g., phosphoric acid, zinc phosphate and sodium phosphate) are added to the water to create orthophosphate, which forms a protective coating on the inside of pipes, service lines and household plumbing. The coating serves as a liner that keeps corrosive elements in water from dissolving metal from the pipe material into the drinking water. As a result, lead and copper levels in the water will remain low. The key to ensuring that orthophosphate prevents lead and copper corrosion is for BJWSA to continually add phosphates and maintain the protective coating.

BJWSA's water is very soft, eliminating the need for water softeners. BJWSA's water is also very safe and meets or exceeds all state and federal regulation which eliminates many of the reasons for a home filtration system.

**Consider:** filters for a "point of use" system, such as a faucet filter, may last longer than a "point of entry" or whole house system. You may want to consider using a filter only at the point of use.

## MORE QUESTIONS?

Our website is packed with helpful information!  
Visit [www.bjwsa.org](http://www.bjwsa.org)