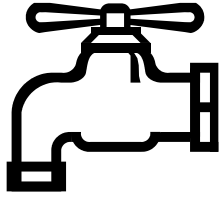


Your Drinking Water Options at the Okanagan Campus

Options for drinking water are available in every building on campus (see reverse). Each option includes signage that indicates that the water is treated. These options include:



Drinking Water Kiosks – Water is treated using reverse osmosis, filtration and UV sterilization that removes turbidity, and purifies water

Drinking Water Fountains – Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC10) filters remove some turbidity and excess chlorine.

Under Counter Filters – These reverse osmosis systems filter and remove turbidity.

What about water coming directly from taps?

Water coming directly from taps is treated by the Glenmore Ellison Irrigation District (GEID) prior to arriving on campus. It currently comes from the McKinley reservoir which is filled by Okanagan Lake. Tap water may have high turbidity, hardness and dissolved solids which may make it distasteful for some.

Why is turbidity a concern?

Turbidity limits the ability of chlorine to disinfect water. Thus, it increases the chance of a stray microorganism surviving the disinfection process. Children, the elderly, those with compromised immune systems or anyone seeking additional protection should avoid waters with higher turbidity.

Why is the water discoloured?

Water is discoloured due to turbidity and the hard water interacting with chlorine.

What is this white residue I have seen on faucets, fountains and water kiosks?

Water left on water facilities evaporates leaving behind white crystalline carbonates and minerals.

What should I do if my water quality changes? (i.e. very dark or non-translucent)

Sudden, unexpected changes in water quality can feel alarming. Allow the faucet to run for a few minutes to try to clear the line. Do not consume water that is experiencing a sudden change in colour or turbidity. Any changes in water quality should be reported to Facilities Management or Campus Security (after hours).

Why do these sudden changes occur?

Suspended turbidity and hard water deposits settle out in the piping at times of low use. When water demands increase, these sediments are re-suspended in water column creating changes in turbidity and colour.

Is anything being done to prevent these changes in water quality?

Yes. Facilities Management and Risk Management Services are working to reduce impacts related to sedimentation in the delivery system through targeted water flushing plans. In 2013, GEID changed the main water source into the McKinley reservoir which improved the incoming water quality.

Special Concerns for Residences

Why does my skin feel different?

Hard water contains more minerals which can leave behind residues from interacting with soap. Consider using pure unscented soaps or castile soaps, as some individuals find that they leave less of a residue behind.

For further information water quality, please contact:

Risk Management Services
www.riskmanagement.ok.ubc.ca

Glenmore Ellison Irrigation District (GEID)
<http://glenmoreellison.com/>

