



air in water

did you know

air in drinking water

White or cloudy water is caused by air dissolved in the water coming out of solution. Because air is a gas, it appears as a haze of millions of tiny bubbles, which makes the water white in appearance. If water containing air is allowed to stand for a few minutes in a glass, the water will clear from the bottom of the glass upwards as the air bubbles rise to surface.

is it safe?

Cloudy water, which slowly clears from the bottom of the glass, does not pose a risk to health and is merely an aesthetic issue. However, you may wish to allow the bubbles to settle out before using the water to mix with cordials or other drink flavourings simply because as the air leaves the water it will generate a stable foam, which may look unpleasant. Keeping a jug of water in the fridge will allow it to clear, and many customers prefer the taste of chilled water. The water should not however be kept for more than 24 hours.

What are the causes of white water?

White water problems can occur as a result of disturbances in the water distribution system, for example burst mains. If the problem is mains derived; the water will remain cloudy even if taps are run for long periods of time. Also mains derived air typically only lasts for a few hours to a few days; it is rare for it to continue longer.

The majority of long-term cloudy water problems are linked to the internal plumbing of the property. This can be confirmed if:

- the water clears after running the tap for a few minutes, but becomes cloudy again when the water has not been used for a period of time
- the cold water supply runs slightly warm for a few seconds before becoming cold

These two checks demonstrate that the cold water pipes are being heated at some point in the property. The most common cause is the hot water supply pipework running either underneath, or in close proximity to the cold water supply pipe. The problem can be solved by insulating/lagging the hot pipe to prevent the cold water from being heated.

why does heated cold water go cloudy?

Colder water enables more air to dissolve into it naturally. As water becomes warmer, less air can remain dissolved and it comes out of the water as tiny white bubbles.

The problem is far more prevalent during the winter months for two reasons:

- 1) The ground is much colder and hence so is the water supply, so the natural background level of air dissolved in the water is much higher.
- 2) We all tend to run heating systems for longer and at higher temperatures, hence hot water pipes are much hotter and warm the cold water more strongly.

Further information can be obtained from our website:
www.hartlepoolwater.co.uk



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