



SPRING RUN-OFF



Did you know the Town of Crossfield receives its water from the Red Deer River and is treated at the Anthony Henday Water Treatment Plant?

The Red Deer River is the source of raw water for the Anthony Henday Water Treatment Plant. Generally, the river is a good source of water, but quality does naturally degrade during heavy rains or spring run-off during the early months of the year. Spring run-off can create water quality concerns.

As the weather warms up, you may notice your water has a slightly different taste at times. Often this is a result of a recent snowmelt and a high level of debris in the river water entering the water treatment plant. When quality degrades, additional treatment processes are used to maintain safe and aesthetically pleasing treated water. The water remains safe for drinking, cooking and bathing.

Chlorine levels may be increased to address this issue. Chlorine is used to disinfect water so it is safe for drinking purposes. This chemical destroys micro-organisms such as bacteria and viruses that can pose a threat to public health. When this happens, residents may notice a stronger than usual chlorine odor and taste to the Town of Crossfield water supply. Again, the water remains safe for drinking, cooking and bathing.

SPRING RUN-OFF FAQ'S

Why does the water taste and smell different?

As the river picks up mud, silt, and other organic material during spring run-off, these materials may dissolve slightly and can give the water an earthy odour or taste. The water treatment plant removes most of these organics; however, due to higher levels during spring run-off, trace levels of organics may remain and be noticeable.

Why do I smell chlorine in the water?

Chlorine is a disinfectant used in the treatment process year-round. During spring run-off, some of the remaining organic material reacts with the chlorine in the treated water. This may make this smell more noticeable in the spring.

How long will the taste and smell last?

Each year is different, but on average, run-off conditions last between three and six weeks. Mountain run-off in late June and early July can also cause these conditions, as will heavy

rainfall events.

How can I combat the smell and taste in the spring?

Put water in a pitcher and let it sit on the counter or in the fridge or try adding lemons. Filtering the water through a consumer charcoal filter can also help improve the smell and taste.

I've noticed a slight colour to the water when filling the sink or tub. Why?

Organic material will actually dissolve and stain the water a light brown color, similar to tea leaves in hot water. The treatment process removes most of the color; however, at times when the organic load is high, some color may be carried into the treated water.