

Did *you* KNOW?

IMPORTANT!

If you have a septic tank, use a non-chlorine cleaner, such as Borax, to avoid damaging your septic tank. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's cleaning instructions for your plumbing fixtures and countertops; chlorine cannot be used with some designer products. Use care with abrasives to avoid scratching fixtures, which will make them even more susceptible to bacteria. Never mix bleach with ammonia. Mixing them will produce dangerous, toxic fumes.

What is that pink stuff on my bathroom fixtures?

Have you ever noticed a pink residue or film on your bathroom fixtures, or in your toilet bowl?

If so, don't be alarmed. It's not an uncommon occurrence, especially in humid climates, and you can be assured that it has nothing to do with the quality of your drinking water.

Typically, such pink residue (which also can sometimes appear dark gray) is formed by a common airborne mold and bacteria that thrives on moist surfaces, such as shower heads, toilet bowls, bathroom fixtures, or tiles.

The mold and bacteria are commonly found in soil and can be dispersed into the air through any number of activities. Often, for example, it suddenly appears after new construction or remodeling. Because it is airborne, it also appears more frequently during times of the year when people have their windows open.

Non-abrasive cleaning solutions with chlorine are the most effective method of eliminating or at least controlling the residue. Wiping dry those surfaces that are frequently exposed to moisture, such as shower stalls, drains, or sink fixtures, can help prevent the bacteria from forming or proliferating.

Chlorine bleach can help keep the bacteria from growing in your toilet bowl. Periodically, stir three to five tablespoons of chlorine bleach into your toilet bowl and flush. As the tank refills, add a few more tablespoons.

BJWSA adds a small amount of chlorine to disinfect the drinking water we supply to customers, and to protect against bacteria and other organisms from forming as it travels through the water distribution system to your home. While the level of chlorine added to your drinking water is not harmful, some customers choose to remove it for taste reasons through activated carbon filtration systems. However, customers with such systems may be more susceptible to the formation of the mold and bacteria growth on their kitchen or bathroom surfaces.

MORE QUESTIONS?

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