

# WATER QUALITY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## Household filters & water softeners



### Brown stuff on my filter

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

BJWSA's water treatment plants have won prestigious national awards for filter performance. We have fantastic filters! BJWSA water is very safe and meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations, which eliminates many reasons for a home filtration system. Consider a point of use filter such as a faucet filter or pitcher filter (point of use) as it may last longer or be more suitable than a whole house (point of entry) system, especially if you think the coffee tastes different.

### Do I need a softener?

Some of our customers move here from areas with different water quality or a different water source. Particularly, if you previously had well water, you probably had a water softener. BJWSA's water mostly comes from the Savannah River and is naturally very soft. Most\* BJWSA customers do not need a water softener. Adding a softener to any kind of water will remove the calcium and magnesium, which can make the water corrosive. Since BJWSA's water is already so low in alkalinity (calcium and magnesium), a softener will make the water corrosive which can pull out metals from plumbing.

BJWSA's water hardness averages 0.5 grains/gallon.

*\*Palm Key and Point South customers have well water. Palm Key and Point South hardness averages 6-8 grains/gallon which is considered moderately hard.*



**Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority**  
*Inspire trust and enhance public health.*