

November 2015

Characteristics of Your Water During Cold Weather

Cold weather is rapidly coming upon us. During this time, the City of East Moline Water Department would like to make customers aware of some changes in the characteristics of your water during the winter months.

The City of East Moline receives its water from the Mississippi River, which means the water temperature you are supplied will be anywhere from 38 to 34 degrees during this time. With the water temperature being this low there are three noticeable effects that you need to be aware of:

One, it will not take long for water to freeze so you should take precautions to protect your water lines. This can be done by simply sealing cracks in your foundation, making sure windows are sealed tight or by insulating pipes and applying heat tape where pipes are susceptible to freezing. An ounce of prevention can save several problems during cold weather.

The second effect you will notice is that there will be a longer recovery time required for hot water. During times of high hot water usage in your home, you may have noticeably lower hot water temperatures. Again, this is due to the fact that the incoming water is colder and will require more time to heat to the desired temperature. Allowing more time between showers, baths and other hot water usages should eliminate noticeable changes in your hot water temperatures.

The third effect you may notice is that cold water may appear milky or cloudy. Colder water is denser and holds more air, when the water warms up the air is released causing cloudiness or milky looking water (small air bubbles). The water will clear in a short period of time as the air bubbles float to the top of the container and dissipate. If you put cold water in a clear glass and it appears cloudy, you will notice that the water will clear from the bottom up. This is the air floating to the top and dissipating into the atmosphere.

If you have any questions concerning your water contact:

Water Billing Department at 752-1530 for billing and metering questions.

Water Filtration Plant at 752-1520 for water quality issues.

Maintenance Services at 752-1573 for questions concerning water distribution.

Email information is also available on this website for the above departments.

Thank you,
Leath "Chip" Drake
Director of Water Filtration