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Solutions to common Water Issues & Info on Water Testing – Printable

Be advised – Bermuda Health department recommends tanks be cleaned at least every 5 years, and it's mandated by law every 6!

Bad Smell/Stagnation

Most commonly these symptoms are due to depletion of oxygen. The rotten egg like (sulfur) smell is the telltale sign. If the tank is clean, aeration and chlorination are the recommended steps...see below. If the tank has NOT been cleaned in the past 5 years, or has a large buildup of sludge it should be cleaned instead of aerated.

Contamination from Roof Paint

In most cases water will be cloudy, accompanied by a harsh taste. DO NOT DRINK! In such cases the only solution is to drain the tank and replace with clean water. In particularly bad cases, or for a tank that has not been cleaned in 5 years a tank cleaning will be necessary.

High Salt content

Only solution here is to drain off the contaminated water.

Mosquito larvae

Prevent these insects from entering by screening all openings, and inspecting older screening. Inspect gutters to ensure no standing water.

Rust colored water

Many houses in Bermuda still have galvanized piping and/or pressure tanks. If you have these symptoms, look to replace these components. It's a worthy upgrade that will only add value and peace of mind for an older home.

Questions & Answers

Q: How do I aerate my water?

A: The simplest way is to run your garden hose (being sure it is pressurized by the tank in question, and not the well for instance) up and into a drain pipe in

the roof that leads to the tank. Let this run a good few hours, or overnight if need be. If you have a small submersible pump this is not a bad idea to use, as it saves wear and tear on your household water pump.

Q: How do I chlorinate my water?

A: The Bermuda Health Department recommends a dosage of 4oz of regular (non-scented) household bleach per 1,000 US gallons. They also recommend this only be done if the water is clear and the tank relatively free of sludge. If your tank/water does not meet these criteria, it's likely time for a tank cleaning.

There is a handy volume calculator here:

<http://www.greertank.com/tankcalc.htm>

Q: How do I get my water tested?

We recommend annual testing, minimum. It's cheap insurance for you and/or your tenant's health. Special attention should be paid for households with newborns, elderly, or those with compromised immune systems – and even more so for ie expats those who's guts may not be 'acclimated' to the contents of tank water that may not bother others.

A: Two options:

1) Water Now will meet with you to discuss your particular issue, and conduct an inspection. Water samples will be taken and dropped off to the Bermuda health department with appropriate documentation on your behalf. Results will be scanned and e-mailed to you, and discussed if need be. We charge a nominal fee of \$25 for the drop off and paperwork, plus the Govt. testing charge (\$20 per sample) at cost.

2) To have water tested yourself here's what you need to know: You will need to pick up a sample kit and paperwork from the Bermuda Department of Health, Environmental Health division. They are located at: Metro Building, 6 Hermitage Road, Devonshire, FL01. They can be reached at 278-5333. Cost is \$20. Call ahead re the specifics of when you can/cannot drop off the samples, which should be fresh.

For any questions feel free to give us a call at **504-5555, or email us at info@waternow.bm**

Also don't forget to check out our notes and video on tank cleaning [services at www.waternow.bm/service](http://www.waternow.bm/service)