

Potable Water at the USAG Heidelberg, Germany

Depending on an installation's location of USAG Heidelberg, drinking water is supplied from one of the local suppliers: Heidelberg, Mannheim, Schwetzingen or Germersheim. Our suppliers use ground water sources to produce drinking water. As the drinking water enters a US-installation's water net, it is chlorinated, and in our housing areas it is fluoridated according to Final Governing Standards for Germany (GFGS) updated Feb 2010. Drinking water systems on US installations are operated, maintained and tested by the Directorate of Public Works (DPW). Drinking Water is monitored by the DPW, Operation and Maintenance Division, Sanitation Branch. US and German authorities work closely together to ensure that the drinking water is of high quality.

Drinking water quality within USAG Heidelberg fulfills all requirements in the GFGS and is therefore of excellent quality.

Routine drinking water analyses are conducted annually, quarterly, monthly and daily. The frequency depends on the parameter being tested and the requirement in the GFGS. Some parameters are required to be tested every third or ninth year in accordance with the GFGS.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there CHLORINE in my water and why?

On US Installations Chlorine is added as required by US Army Regulation. These parameters are continuously monitored. Chlorine is added to the water to prevent bacterial growth. The chlorine level is a variable parameter. Depending on the installations' water demand, population, size and sampling location, chlorine levels can vary up to the allowed maximum level of 4.00 parts per million (ppm).

Is there FLUORIDE in my water?

Drinking water is fluoridated in the USAG Heidelberg housing areas to enhance dental hygiene at a level of 0.6 ppm to 0.8 ppm.

Is my water free of BACTERIA?

Bacteriological Sampling is conducted on a monthly basis. Results within the USAG Heidelberg indicate that our water is of excellent quality and free of bacterial growth.

What is the WHITE RESIDUE on my kitchen or bath room sink?

Hard Water: The minerals Magnesium and Calcium are nutrients your body needs. The minerals embedded in a carbonate molecule can create a deposit on sinks, bath tubs, fixtures and dishes. Hardness in our area has a German hardness degree of 4, which is considered hard water. Please follow the instructions on dishwashers and washing machines to determine proper soap, salt and detergent amount for hard water. If the instructions are properly followed the machines will not be affected by the hard water. In the analysis result you find a level measured in parts per million (ppm) or mg/l. This value divided by 17.8 will

give you the level of "German Hardness", that you find on German instructions for detergents. Based on this level you can calculate the amount of detergent needed.

Why is my tap water RUSTY and what can I do?

Rusty Water: During the maintenance or repair work on water distribution systems with water shut-off, yellow or brown water can appear in the respective area the same day or later, depending on the water demand. Yellow or brown colored water can appear during our annual flushing of water main distribution systems (GFGS) which cleans sediments out of the drinking water system. The color is a result of iron sediments in the pipe system. These iron sediments are not considered harmful. In case of discolored cold water, allow the water to run until it is colorless and clear. If warm water appears to be discolored, the warm water boiler might need to be cleaned. In this case, please contact your service order desk. Please clean out your faucet screens every 6 month and after each flushing event, which is published in the Herald Post.

Is my water tested at my tap for LEAD and COPPER?

Lead and Copper Program: In our installations we have conducted sampling and testing for lead and copper in drinking water since 1993 IAW the GFGS and EPA guidelines. This special stagnation sampling method shows the worst possible readings for lead and copper in water, standing inside faucets a longer time. The monitoring has shown that the lead levels meet GFGS and EPA guidelines. Therefore we are in the reduced monitoring program (3 year frequency). Please clean out faucet screens frequently. For more information please contact DPW, O&M Div, Sanitation Branch.

Should I use a WATER FILTER?

Water Filters: If you follow the instructions mentioned above it is not necessary in our area to use a water filter. If you want to use a water filter (e.g. Britta) please follow the manual exactly and change filter cartridge as often as it is described in the manual. Always keep your filter filled with water so that the filter cartridge does not come into contact with the air for too long. Filters if used not correctly can be a source for bacteria or algae grow.