



Security Water District

Customer Update December 2020

Water Treatment for PFAS to Begin

Dear Security Water Customer:

Security Water District has worked diligently to protect our water supplies from Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) since first learning of the issue in 2016. After discovering that firefighting foam used at Peterson Air Force Base had impacted our groundwater supplies, Security Water implemented interim solutions—we shifted to using only surface water from Pueblo Reservoir to guarantee that our drinking water was safe. Since then, we have been working with the U.S. Air Force on a permanent solution.

PFAS are a family of manmade chemicals that do not occur naturally in the environment. These compounds are found in firefighting foams, coating additives and surface protection products for carpets, clothing, cookware and even food wrapping.

Because PFAS dissolve in water, traditional drinking water treatment technologies may not be able to remove them. The Air Force agreed to pay for and build a specific type of water treatment plant for Security Water District that is capable of treating these chemicals. The plant has been under construction for more than two years on District property on Bradley Road and is now nearing completion. It uses a process known as Ion Exchange Treatment. Ion Exchange uses highly porous resins (tiny beads) that act as powerful magnets to attract and hold contaminant materials from passing through the water system. The plant also includes standard disinfection processes used to kill or inactivate bacteria and viruses.

We anticipate the new treatment process will begin in the next several weeks. Once it does, we will gradually reintroduce groundwater back into our system so we are able to draw on both groundwater and surface water sources. We don't anticipate customers will notice any notable differences in their water after treatment begins.

We continuously monitor and test to ensure the water meets or exceeds regulatory and health standards set by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). You can view the District's most recent Water Quality Report on our website: www.securitywsd.com.

Water delivered to your tap through this new facility will be tested according to a monitoring plan adopted by CDPHE with input from the District. Water will be tested both before and after treatment. Several locations within the treatment facility will be sampled on different schedules to evaluate plant performance throughout the process. Treated water will be sampled about once every two weeks and groundwater wells will be tested quarterly. This rigorous monitoring ensures our water is safe to use for any purpose.

We have taken this matter very seriously and are pleased to have a permanent solution that allows us to provide safe, high quality drinking water at a reasonable price. We are grateful for your patience and cooperation as we have worked through these issues.



Ion Exchange vessels used to treat PFAS were recently delivered to the site of the new water treatment plant.



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Seasonal Tips for Our Customers

DEFEND YOUR DRAINS

Help us keep your pipes—and our wastewater treatment system—running smoothly:

- **Toss fats and grease in the trash** not down the drain
- Have a clog? **Call us at 719-392-3475 before having it cleaned** – We will check it for free to protect our main lines and your neighbors



PROTECT YOUR PIPES FROM FREEZING

Here's a preventative checklist to keep your pipes from freezing this winter:

- **Turn off/drain irrigation system**
- **Disconnect/drain hoses and faucets** (cover outside faucets)
- **Close windows, holes and garage doors near pipes**
- **Insulate exterior walls** (to avoid cold drafts near your pipes)
- **Check pipes and faucets in unheated areas** (near water meter, exterior walls and crawl spaces)—First sign of freezing is reduced faucet flow
- **Wrap pipes with pipe insulation or heating tape if needed**
- **Let a faucet drip lukewarm water** (only to minimize freezing in super cold temps)



Going away for a while?

- **Check your thermostat batteries, and set it no lower than 55°F**
- **Shut off water supply valves**
- **Open cabinet doors below sinks so heat can circulate**