

## MY WATER STAINS PLUMBING FIXTURES BLUE OR BLUE-GREEN

LIKELY PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE NEEDED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
<p><b>Copper</b> See <a href="#">Copper in Drinking Water</a> brochure.</p>	<p>Possibly, if levels are very high. Copper is a necessary mineral for good health, though there is a primary <a href="#">drinking water standard</a> for copper because long-term exposure to elevated levels in drinking water can cause gastro-intestinal symptoms as well as kidney and liver damage. See the <a href="#">Minnesota Dept. of Health brochure on copper</a>.</p>	<p>Does your water have a metallic taste? Is there a blue-green cast to the water? Is your water corrosive or naturally soft? Levels of copper found in groundwater are quite low. Copper levels increase when corrosive water comes into contact with copper plumbing and copper-containing fixtures, especially in newer homes. Lead can be associated with copper in drinking water. See the DNR <a href="#">Lead in Drinking Water</a> brochure.</p>	<p>Test your water for copper, hardness, alkalinity and pH (field test). Contact a <a href="#">laboratory certified by DNR to test for copper</a>. If your water is corrosive, you may want to contact a <a href="#">laboratory certified by DNR to test for lead</a>.</p>	<p><b>Avoid drinking or cooking with water that has been in contact with pipes for more than six hours, i.e., run your faucet until the water gets as cold as possible.</b></p>	No	No	<p><a href="#">UWSP Well Water Quality Viewer</a></p> <p><a href="#">United States Geological Survey</a></p>
				<p><b>Time. If your plumbing is newer and you have confirmed that you have hard water, calcium carbonate may eventually coat the pipes and interfere with the release of copper.</b></p>	No	No	<p><a href="#">National Ground Water Association</a></p> <p><a href="#">Water Systems Council</a></p>
				<p><b>Install a Dept. of Safety and Professional Services <a href="#">approved water treatment device</a> to either remove the contaminant or adjust the pH.</b></p>	<p>Yes, treatment devices must be installed by <a href="#">licensed plumbers</a>; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See <a href="#">plumbing license laws</a>.</p> <p>Be sure the device chosen is capable of removing the contaminant level in your water.</p>	No	<p><a href="#">National Sanitation Foundation</a></p> <p><a href="#">Center for Watershed Science and Education, UW-Stevens Point</a></p>