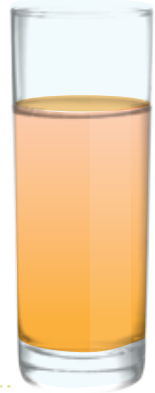




FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION

MY TAP WATER LOOKS DISCOLOURED

DISCOLOURED WATER THAT
LAST FOR A FEW HOURS OR DAYS



STOP

QUICK CHECK LIST MY TAP WATER MAY...

- ☐ look a black, brown, orange, red or yellow colour
- ☐ have been discoloured for a few hours or days
- ☐ look clearer after I run the tap for a long while
- ☐ have been turned off recently
- ☐ be at a lower pressure than normal
- ☐ be discoloured at all taps in my house
- ☐ be discoloured in my house and at my neighbours
- ☐ have more iron or manganese than normal



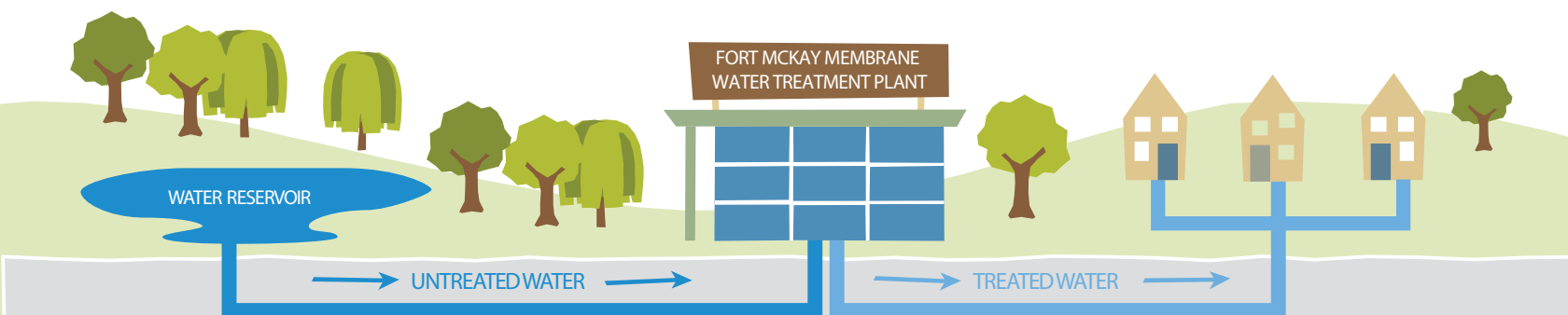
CAUSES

Discoloured water is caused by iron sediments which have settled inside the water mains over time. These sediments come from the cast iron water mains we have in our network.

Normally, this doesn't affect anyone. But, a burst water main, for example, will increase the water flow and can stir up the sediment, causing the water to become discoloured.

Occasionally there may also be manganese present in the water supply, which comes from the natural water source. Historically, there may be manganese particles left on the inside of the water pipes, so when there is a disturbance to the water mains, such as a burst main, this can sometimes disturb these particles, making the water look black.

Neither iron nor manganese are harmful at the levels which can be found in tap water.



A burst water main can make the water become discoloured



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Discoloured water is normally quite short lived and doesn't usually last more than 24 hours. The only way to clear it is to let it work its way through the system. You might like to run your taps to help flush the discoloured water through.



Caution: don't do any laundry, because the discoloured water may stain the washing. If this does happen, keep the washing damp and give us a call. We can deliver you some crystals which should take away this colour.

If it has been longer than 24 hours it may be that we need to come and flush the system to help it along its way. If you have had discoloured water for more than 24 hours then please give us a call.

HOW DO WE PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN?

We have a maintenance programme for our network of water pipes, which is designed to help keep the water mains free of iron sediment which causes the discoloured water.

We do this by purposefully stirring up all the sediment and flushing it out, but we will always let you know before we do this.

Discolouration can also be caused by internal plumbing – please see Water Quality Fact Sheet 01 'My tap water looks discoloured – discoloured water that lasts for a few weeks or months'.

CONTACT US

You can get further information on water quality from our website www.rmwb.ca/living/Services-and-Utilities/Water.htm or call 780.799. 7493 (RMWB) or 780.15.0127 (FMFN).



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Through an agreement between FMFN, RMWB and INAC, a flush maintenance performance on the water distribution system. Activities include hydrant maintenance, exercising valves and flushing of mains. This is performed on a yearly basis or as required.