

## HARD WATER

**Symptoms in Water** Grayish white film in sinks, tubs, dishes, reduced suds in laundry, frequent failure of water heater elements, scale in teapots.

**Common Causes** Hardness due to calcium and magnesium dissolved from bedrock. There is no drinking standard but a hardness level above about 120 mg/L<sup>1</sup> or 7 grains per gallon is most likely to cause these symptoms.

**Possible Solutions** Ion exchange water softener (exchanges calcium and magnesium for sodium or potassium).

*Information from Penn State Extension*

<https://extension.psu.edu/common-drinking-water-problems-and-solutions>

### How hard is Surfside's water?

Surfside's last tests from our wells for water hardness averaged 107 mg/L which places us in the USGS "moderately hard" category, one category above soft water.

Per USGS, ground water (well water) chemistry stays fairly constant.

"Water hardness is based on major-ion chemistry concentrations. Major-ion chemistry in ground water is relatively stable and generally does not change over time. Although the map illustrates data from 1975, these data have been found to be accurate and useful in current assessments." – USGS

Please visit the USGS website below to see the map and chart on water hardness nationwide and some general information on water hardness.

<https://water.usgs.gov/owq/hardness-alkalinity.html#hardness>

### What if I still believe the water at my home is excessively hard?

You can purchase a home test kit to test for water hardness.

Good Housekeeping has a list of home test kits and how accurately they performed for a series of water tests. [www.goodhousekeeping.com/health-products/a18919/water-tests/](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health-products/a18919/water-tests/)

Some water filtration companies will perform water quality testing for free, including water hardness, to be able to determine the best filtration system for your home.