

## General Water Questions

### **Q: Where does our water come from?**

The City of Davis' water distribution system is a conjunctive use system, meaning that the City delivers both surface water (water from the Sacramento River) and groundwater (from City wells underground). The City purchases the surface water from the Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA). In 2023, 90% of the water delivered to City customers was surface water. The remaining water delivered was from nine municipal groundwater wells. However, the groundwater used for drinking water primarily comes from four of the City's deep aquifer wells (the City has other wells that are typically only operated for water quality testing and maintenance).

### **Q: How is the water treated?**

Surface water is treated at the Regional Water Treatment Facility in Woodland (operated by WDCWA), by traditional surface water treatment techniques, including flash mixing, sand ballasted clarification, ozonation, and granular media filtration. After treatment, the finished water is dosed with chlorine for disinfection and with phosphoric acid to create ortho-phosphate for corrosion control (to minimize corrosion of metal pipes), to achieve a target chlorine residual of 1.0 ppm and 2.0 ppm for ortho-phosphate.

The City disinfects its groundwater with chlorine and the target residual is 1.0 ppm.

### **Q: What type of water am I receiving at my home?**

Surface water is from the Sacramento River and is treated at the Regional Water Treatment Facility in Woodland. The City supplements the surface water with groundwater primarily from the city's deep aquifer wells. The water entering your home will be a blend of surface water and groundwater. There is a higher percentage of surface water in the winter (low demand months) compared to the summer (high demand months).

### **Q: What is the water pressure delivered to my home?**

The City targets a range of 45-55 psi in the main lines. Some pressure is lost at the meter as water enters individual properties. Water pressure can also be lost at the backflow if your property has one.

### **Q: How hard is my water? Do I need my water softener?**

The relative hardness of water will depend on the source. The City of Davis supplies water from two sources: groundwater from City deep aquifer wells and surface water from the Sacramento River. Surface water is naturally softer than local groundwater. In 2015, when the City supplied only groundwater, the average level of water hardness (weighted average) was 306 parts per million (ppm) or 17.9 grains per gallon (gpg). In 2023, the City supplied 90% surface water and the average level of water hardness (weighted average) was 75 ppm or 4.4 gpg.

The City takes monthly samples for hardness at five sampling stations around town. For more information about the most recent hardness levels, click [here](#).

If you have a water softener, consider bypassing it to determine if the current level of hardness in the tap water is acceptable for your home. If you choose to continue using a water softener, consult with your plumber to choose the appropriate grains setting.

**Q: What is in my drinking water?**

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and other elements, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. The [Annual Water Quality Report](#) has more information regarding the potential sources of minerals, elements, and substances (known collectively as “constituents”) in your drinking water.

**Q: Does the City add fluoride to the water?**

No fluoride is added to the surface water or groundwater; however, trace amounts are naturally occurring in the groundwater.

**Q: How can I have my water tested?**

If you are interested in having your water tested, the link below provides information on Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) certified laboratories:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/labs/index.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/labs/index.html).