

Where does my water come from?

Your water more than likely comes from one of two basic sources. Water is generally categorized as surface water coming from lakes, runoff, streams or rivers; or as ground water which originates from springs or wells.

Your water is provided by either you on your own property or by your local water company or municipality. Municipalities generally rely on surface water, which is in lakes or streams. Surface water is typically softer with a low mineral content and usually must be treated for bacterial contamination since the rivers, lakes and streams have some level of bacteria present.

Homeowners generally rely on wells or springs which provide ground water. Well water typically has higher mineral content and is, in general, harder. Ground water is frequently free of pathogenic organisms. Keep in mind that all well water was surface water at some point! Surface water from streams, lakes and rivers slowly seeps down through the root zone and down into the aquifer(s) over long periods of time and in so doing the bacteria are filtered by the earth or simply age and die. As the water moves through various strata, it dissolves many of the minerals present in the earth. Places where the surface water quickly penetrate to the aquifer often have contaminated aquifers because the bacteria have a quick path to the ground water. For more information spend some time on the web researching Hydro-Geologic Cycle.