



Water Quality

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Home / Living in BWG / Water and Wastewater / Water Quality

BWG's drinking water is continually monitored and tested for compliance with the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. BWG's water must meet over 100 strict health-based standards for microbiological, chemical and radiological parameters to ensure safe drinking water to its residents.

Our water quality sampling program ensures your water is safe.

Colour +

Taste and Odour +

Cloudy Water +

Sodium Levels in Treated Water +

Water Hardness -

Fluoride +

The concept of water "hardness" is used to refer to the ability of the water to make lather from soap. Water is said to be "hard" if it is difficult to make soap suds. The two minerals that are most responsible for hardness are calcium and magnesium carbonate. Water hardness can also result in scaling on pipes and appliances (e.g. hot water tanks, dishwashers).

The following table illustrates terms used to refer to relative water hardness and the corresponding range in chemical tests:

Relative Hardness		Hardness Range
Description	mg/L CaCo3	Grains/Imperial gallon
Soft	0-60	0 - 4.2
Moderately Hard	61-120	4.2 - 8.4
Hard	121-180	8.4 - 12.6
Very Hard	More than 180	More than 12.6

The average hardness in the water supplies in BWG is summarized in the following table:

Location	Average Hardness (mg/L)**	Grains/Imperial gallon*
Groundwater - Zone 1	110	7.7
Surface Water - Zone 2	130	9.1

**Conversion factor from Hardness (mg/L) to Grains/Imp gallon: 0.07016*

The water in the Town of BWG is typically moderately hard to hard in terms of the relative scale provided above. The hardness of water is not known to have any specific health-related effects. Many people choose to install a water softener in their home to reduce the formation of scale in their water system and make washing easier.

Water and Wastewater

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Home Treatment Devices

Some people use point-of-use treatment devices to filter their tap water prior to consumption. The intent of these systems is typically to remove some of the odours associated with disinfection that is used by the Town of BWG to ensure that the water is safe to drink. Improper usage or maintenance of a home treatment device can result in an impact of water quality.

The treated water supply in the Town of BWG is tested continually, both at the source and throughout the distribution system. It consistently meets and exceeds all guidelines and provincial standards for drinking water quality.

Please beware of vendors of water systems who may misrepresent themselves by suggesting they are hired by or affiliated with the Town, or make false claims about Town water quality.

Customer Protection
Ontario

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Water/Compliance

3541 Line 11, PO Box 160, Bradford, ON L3Z 2A8, [Map this Location](#)
T. 905-775-5366 x 2300, [Send us an email](#)

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Address: Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, 100 Dissette St., Unit 7&8, Bradford, ON, L3Z 2A7

Phone: [905-775-5366](tel:905-775-5366), [Send an Email](#)

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