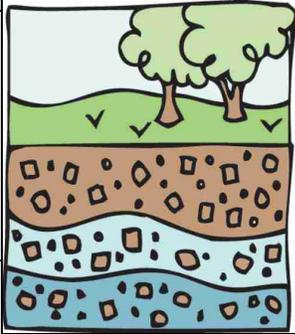


Morris Drinking Water

What is hard water?

Hard water has lots of minerals that you can't see with just your eyes (like calcium and magnesium). Soft water has less minerals.



If you have hardwater, you may notice white, flakey rings around your sink, shower or hose. Or that when you travel other places your soap might have more suds than it does here. That's because the water in Morris is **hard water**.



Why is Morris water hard?

In Minnesota, a lot of the earth that's beneath our feet and under our houses is limestone (rock that is made of calcium and magnesium carbonate). A lot of water exists below the surface of the Earth (in areas called aquifers) and when it is next to limestone some of the minerals from the limestone end up in the water.



Reducing water hardness

While hard water is usually safe to drink, it can be bad for our pipes and faucets. To eliminate some of these problems, we can make water less hard by removing some of the minerals. To do this, we filter the water go through some salts (like the salt you use on your food) and the minerals in the water stick to the salts and stay with them instead of staying in the water - making the water less hard.

What happens to Morris water after we use it?



It goes out to the Pomme de Terre River. After softening, some of the salts stay in the water. The wildlife and plants that live in or near the river are very sensitive to changes in their water, including the chloride from the salt. A lot of people in Morris use water softening systems in their homes and the salty wastewater has been damaging the river ecosystem. In order to lower the salt levels, Morris put in a new water treatment plant to make the system more efficient and reduce the impacts on wildlife.



What does the water treatment plant do?

The new water treatment plant reduces the hardness of Morris water centrally (bringing hardness values down from 40-45 grains of hardness to 5-7 grains of hardness). Additionally, the plant uses lime and soda ash to limit the chlorine discharged into the Pomme de Terre.

→ Can you think of any actions you take every day that might also have an impact on the river?

