

# WHAT ARE THOSE BLACK GREASE-LIKE SPECKS IN MY WATER?



Black specks in your water could be caused by deteriorating rubber somewhere in your home or business' plumbing. The particles typically smear when you touch them and leave a pencil-like mark on your fingers.

## TYPICAL SOURCES

**1. Deteriorating membrane in the thermal expansion tank on the hot water heater**

An expansion tank is a small tank used to protect some standard domestic hot water systems from excessive pressure. It looks similar to a propane tank and is typically located above the water heater. The tank is divided in two by a rubber diaphragm that degrades over time.



Thermal Expansion Tank

**2. Liner disintegrating from the inside of a flexible hose**

The rubber liner inside flexible hoses, such as on the water heater or underneath the sink, can degrade from exposure to chloramine over time.



Flex Connections

Depending on the source, you may need to replace the thermal expansion tank or the water hose with one that is resistant to chloramines (which should be clearly advertised on the label).