

WHY DOES MY WATER SMELL LIKE ROTTEN EGGS?



Rotten egg or sulfurous odors in the drinking water are typically caused by organics degrading in the P-trap of the sink drain, sewer gases escaping from the sink drain, or stagnant water in the water tank. See below for explanation.

TYPICAL SOURCES

- 1. Organics Degrading in the P-Trap in the Sink Drain** - If you smell a foul odor when you turn the water on in your sink, the common assumption is that the odor is coming from the drinking water. However, this may not be the case. A good test is to fill a glass with water and remove it from the sink area to smell it. That way you can determine whether the odor is in fact coming from the water or the drain. Another test is to pour bleach down the drain. If it temporarily improves the odor, then organics could be degrading in the P-trap of the sink drain. A drain cleaner like Drano may help by dissolving the material.
- 2. Sewer Gases Escaping from the Sink Drain** -The P-trap in the sink drain is designed to allow water to remain in it. This provides a barrier against sewer gases escaping up through sink drain.
- 3. Stagnant Water in the Hot Water Tank** - If the odor is detected in the hot water and not the cold then flushing the water heater would improve this.

