

The City of Oregon water treatment plant's drinking water continues to surpass all federal and state drinking water standards. These standards are met with very strict regulations from the Ohio EPA, which also limit our ability to change the treatment process. In regard to scale buildup, which occurs in all water systems, the EPA limits our ability to reduce scale in an effort to prevent corrosion in piping and fixtures.

Lake Erie water is very high in minerals such as calcium, magnesium, and zinc. As much as these minerals can be beneficial for human health, they do increase scale buildup in piping and fixtures. At the same time, the EPA requires the city to add a polyphosphate to coat the inside walls of piping and fixtures to prevent metals from leaching out of the piping. The lack of adding phosphate is what happened to Flint, MI, which resulted in a billion dollar health problem. [LeadNotice.pdf \(oregonohio.org\)](#)

The EPA also requires our water to be alkaline as another protective measure to prevent corrosion. We are required to keep the pH of our water above 9.0.

Unfortunately, the combination of high minerals, adding a polyphosphate, and keeping the water alkaline, all adds to scale buildup in the water piping systems. There are several websites that assist homeowners on how to clean or remove scale from water piping and fixtures. The following is one example: [How to Descale/Remove Calcium Buildup From Pipes - Plumbing Sniper](#)