

**Have you ever noticed dark-brown or black slime on faucets, spouts, aerators, shower heads, pink/black stains in toilet bowls or other bathroom fixtures?**

### **What Is Causing Black Slime in Faucet Aerators?**

The black slime that accumulates on spouts is bacteria that feed on oxidized iron and manganese in the water.

Manganese, as well as iron bacteria in water, can stain drinking water, fixtures or even laundry. Most drinking water has traces of dissolved iron and manganese. When these minerals come into contact with oxygen (from water or air), they oxidize. Iron can tint water (and things it comes in contact with, such as fixtures) red, and manganese can tint water black.

### **What is Manganese?**

Manganese is a naturally occurring metal that can be found in different types of rocks, soils, and sediments; and typically occurs in lakes, rivers, and underground water supplies.

### **Is Manganese (Bacteria) Harmful?**

Neither manganese nor the bacteria are considered dangerous or a risk to your health in levels as they occur in our drinking water. The WHO recommends maintaining a concentration of 0.05mg/l in drinking water. Lower levels can be easily achieved by filtration.