



## Pink Slimy Stuff in the BATHROOM????? oooEEK!

It happens. Pink rings, pinkish shower heads. It also comes in **black** and **gray**. It is caused by air borne bacteria. There are numerous bacteria, fungi, (no, not fun guy) and other organisms in the environment that find their way into bathroom and kitchen fixtures. Most are not pathogenic or disease causing. They are found in soil, food, and on animals and become airborne because of wind or construction. Some thrive on moisture and need little to grow. The bacteria may be noticed at the water line in toilet bowls or toilet tanks, on faucets, in sinks or on shower tiles. They sometimes appear jelly-like and are **gray**, **black** or **pink** in color. The **pink** colored one is interesting and often gets your attention. This is most likely from the bacteria *Serratia marcescens* and is from the environment, not the water supply.

**Make it go AWAY!** Yes, you can make it go away! Regular cleaning, periodic disinfection with good old household bleach and adequate ventilation are necessary to control these organisms. Room or whole house humidifiers can be a source of air borne bacteria, as well as open windows.