

What do the results mean?

General guidelines for reading water testing results are provided below

PARTIAL CHEMISTRY-TESTING FOR THE QUALITY OF THE WATER SAMPLE			
TEST	ACCEPTABLE RESULT RANGE Testing results are reported in mg/L, which is equivalent to parts per million (ppm)	EPA CONTAMINATION LEVEL *If your value exceeds this limit it is recommended you contact your county environmental health office	What you may notice
FERROUS IRON	0-0.5 mg/L	Over 0.5 mg/L	Staining, cloudiness, taste, color and odor
NITRATE	0-10 mg/L	Over 10 mg/L*	May cause Nitrate poisoning and methemoglobinemia in infants
NITRITE	0-1 mg/L	Over 1 mg/L*	May cause Nitrite poisoning and methemoglobinemia in infants
HARDNESS as CaCO₃	50-250 mg/L	Below 50 mg/L Over 250 mg/L	At low levels corrosion. At high levels scaling of water fixtures, laundry problems, water spotting, and discoloration.
SULFATE	0-250 mg/L	Over 250 mg/L	Higher levels may have a laxative effect, especially for new supply users.
FLUORIDE	0.7- 2.0 mg/L	Over 4.0 mg/L*	Moderate levels are beneficial in reducing tooth decay. Mottling of teeth at high levels.
CHLORIDE	0-250 mg/L	Over 250 mg/L	Taste and corrosion
BACTERIA TESTING- PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF BACTERIA IN THE WATER SAMPLE			
POTABLE DRINKING WATER – Analyzed by COLILERT Method	Not Detected	No Coliform bacteria in the water sample	No follow-up needed
	Total Coliform Detected	The sample is POSITIVE for Total Coliforms, which may indicate the water is not safe for drinking.*	If you have a positive result it is recommended you contact your county environmental health office.
	E. Coli Detected	The sample is POSITIVE for E. Coli, do not drink the water, until further tests can be done.*	If you have a positive result it is recommended you contact your county environmental health office.
METALS TESTING RESULTS FOR THE SAMPLE			
Lead	Below 0.015 mg/L	Over 0.015 mg/L	Lead usually originates from corrosion of lead solder in your plumbing system. Lead has no obvious symptoms in water and can cause serious health effects including cancer, stroke, behavioral disorders, brain damage and high blood pressure
Arsenic	Below 0.010 mg/L	Over 0.010 mg/L	Arsenic occurs in groundwater from both natural sources and human activities. In drinking water, it is odorless and tasteless. Arsenic causes skin lesions, circulatory problems, nervous system disorders and cancer.
Copper	Below 1.3 mg/L	Over 1.3 mg/L	Copper usually originates from corrosion of copper plumbing in the home. Copper can cause severe stomach cramps and intestinal illnesses.