



What Should I Test My Well Water For?

*Additional tests only available as an add-on to the basic kit (coliform and nitrates)

Test	Reasons to Test	Possible Sources
Total Coliform and Fecal (E. coli) Confirmation Included in Basic Kit- \$60.00	Recommended by HC Health Dept. to test annually. Cloudy water. Recurrent gastrointestinal complaints from people drinking water.	Cracks in well casing, faulty seal or seepage near well. Septic system problems. Stormwater runoff.
Nitrate Included in Basic Kit	Cloudy water Recurrent gastrointestinal complaints from people drinking water. High levels are harmful to infants and pregnant women.	Cracks in well casing, faulty seal or seepage near well. Septic system problems. Seepage from fertilized land.
*Iron- \$15.00	Discoloration of laundry or plumbing fixtures, rust stains. Bitter or metallic taste.	Naturally occurring deposits. Industrial wastes.
*Manganese- \$15.00	Discoloration of laundry or plumbing fixtures, rust stains. Bitter or metallic taste.	Naturally occurring deposits. Manufacturing and agricultural runoff.
*Lead- \$25.00	Can cause physical or mental development problems in infants or children. Kidney problems or high blood pressure in adults. Harmful to pregnant women and children.	Corrosion of household pipes, fittings, solder. Soft water may be more corrosive.
*Arsenic- \$35.00	Can cause increased risk of cancers, gastrointestinal ailments, diabetes and cardiovascular impacts.	Naturally occurring deposits. Wood preservative.
*Volatile Organics (62 chemicals)- \$95.00	High levels can cause liver, nervous system disorders, irregular heartbeat, high blood pressure, anemia and cancer.	Underground storage tanks, gas stations, landfills, hazardous waste sites, and septic systems.
*Pesticides (18 chemicals)- \$135.00	High levels can cause birth defects, cancer and damage to the nervous system.	Farm, golf course, residential runoff.
*Radon- \$75.00	Exposure to radon in drinking water can lead to lung cancer. Can be ingested or inhaled as gases are released from the water into the air.	Naturally occurs, produced by the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. Can enter the home through well water.
*Gross Alpha- \$80.00	Exposure to gross alpha emitters in drinking water can lead to lung cancer. Can be ingested, or inhaled as gases that are released from the water into the air	Erosion of natural deposits of minerals that are radioactive, may emit alpha radiation, which can enter the home through well water

Total Chromium- \$25*

EPA has a drinking water standard of 0.1 milligrams per liter (mg/l) or 100 parts per billion (ppb) for total chromium. This includes all forms of chromium, including chromium-6. The current standard is based on potential adverse dermatological effects over many years, such as allergic dermatitis (skin reactions). *Chromium-6 and chromium-3 are covered under the total chromium drinking water standard because these forms of chromium can convert back and forth in water and in the human body, depending on environmental conditions.