

What A Water Test Report Means

Interpretation of Bacteriological Sample

Fecal coliform	Indicates organisms from fecal pollution of human, animal or bird origin. There is no satisfactory method currently available for differentiating between organisms of human or animal origin.
Total Coliform group	Indicates organisms are present within the water supply. Contamination may be associated with work completed on plumbing or well; or soil run-off entering the water supply.
<p>THE WATER IS CONSIDERED UNSAFE IF EITHER TYPE OF COLIFORM BACTERIA IS PRESENT. If the laboratory examination of the water shows positive for either of the above named organisms, an effort should be made to determine the cause of a positive result. Pending the removal of the source of contamination and proper protection of the water supply, the water should be boiled to render it safe for human consumption. If the bacteriological results were positive, see the enclosed disinfection procedures.</p>	

Interpretation of Metal/Chemical Sample

Item	Recommended	Problems from excessive amounts
pH	6.5-8.5	Below pH 6.5 may cause corrosion of copper and iron pipes, lead from soldered joints in pipes, and zinc and cadmium from galvanized metals.
Turbidity	0-5 units	Increase in turbidity after rainfall may indicate surface or other introduced pollution. Turbidity can reduce the effectiveness of chlorination or other means of disinfection.
Alkalinity	No recommended limit (Alkalinity is a measure of the capacity of a water to neutralize acids)	Alkalinity in comparison with pH and hardness can determine the corrosiveness of the water. A low alkalinity in relation with low pH and hardness result in corrosive water. See pH and hardness.
Chloride	Less than 250 ppm	If chloride content is normally low, an increase may indicate sewage or salt contamination. High concentrations may affect the taste of the water.
Hardness	Less than 100 ppm	Hardness levels above 100 ppm will increase detergent and soap needs and cause scale on pipes and heaters. Water with little or no hardness may be corrosive. Salt regenerating softeners increase the sodium content. See pH, alkalinity and sodium.
Iron	Less than .3 ppm	Causes poor flavored and colored (reddish brown) water, stains plumbing fixtures and laundry, and deposits in pipes. See pH.
Nitrate as N	Less than 10.0 ppm	Excessive amounts of Nitrites and Nitrates can cause a blood disorder in infants.
Manganese	Less than 0.05 ppm	Causes poor tasting coffee and tea, brown to black stains on fixtures and laundry. However, levels above 2.0 ppm should not be consumed as new research indicates high levels of manganese may cause illness, especially in children.
Arsenic	Less than 0.010 ppm	Excessive amounts are highly toxic

If further advice is required, feel free to contact this office at (301)334-7760.