



WHAT YOUR LABORATORY REPORT MEANS

- Total Coliform:** This is an indication of bacterial pollution. If your water tested 8.7 or more, then you should have your well inspected to determine the cause of the contamination. If your water was 2.0 to 5.3 the water should be tested again periodically to determine if the problem is getting worse. A result of satisfactory or 0.0 indicated no bacterial problem. Note that any bacteria detected is cause for concern.
- Fecal Coliform:** This is an indication of bacterial pollution of a fecal origin. Any result of bacterial pollution that is unsatisfactory (1.0 or more) indicates the well should be inspected and the cause of the contamination should be eliminated.
- Sulfate:** Desirable levels are less than 250 mg/liter. (Above 200 mg/liter there are increased amounts of lead dissolved from pipes.) Laxative effects are expected when levels exceed 1,000 mg/liter.
- Nitrates:** High levels of nitrate have been associated with methemoglobinemia (blue babies) in bottle fed infants. Levels in excess of 10 mg/liter of nitrate nitrogen are considered unsafe. High nitrates can be an indication of surface water contamination in a well.

If your water sample exceeded any of the safe upper limits then you should take steps to correct the problem. After doing so, the water should be retested to insure that the problem has been solved.

If your water tested safe in all areas of analysis, you should nevertheless have it retested periodically (once per year or every two years) to detect any problems that may arise.

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