

Take action if your drinking water has high manganese.

Manganese is a common element found in minerals, rocks, and soil and is often present with iron. Manganese and iron can turn the water a brown or rust color, cause staining of faucets, sinks, or laundry, and make the water have an off-taste or odor. **While manganese is part of a healthy diet at low levels, high levels may affect the nervous system, kidneys, and reproduction.**

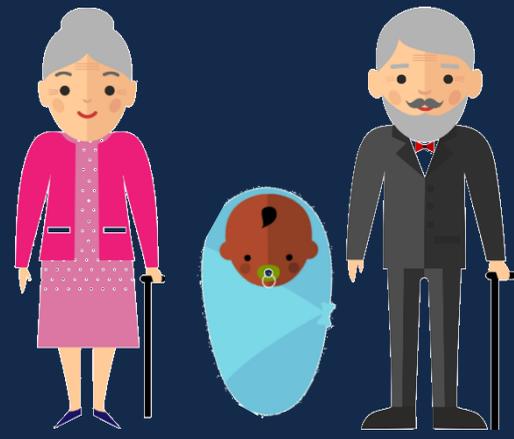
Public water systems in Wisconsin test for manganese every nine years. Your water utility may issue a public notice if the level of manganese in your drinking water is too high.

Manganese levels over 1,000 µg/L pose an immediate health risk for everyone.



At high enough levels, manganese can pose an immediate health risk to everyone. When manganese levels are over 1,000 µg/L, everyone should immediately stop using the water for drinking, making beverages and formula, and preparing foods that take up or use a lot of water.

Manganese levels over 300 µg/L pose an immediate health risk for sensitive groups.



People over the age of 50 and infants are the most sensitive to the effects of manganese.

These groups should immediately stop using the water for drinking, making beverages and formula, and preparing foods that use a lot of water.*

Manganese at these levels also poses a long-term health risk for everyone.

Everyone should avoid long-term use of the water for drinking, making beverages, and preparing foods that take up or use a lot of water.

µg/L= micrograms of manganese per liter of water
Examples of foods that take or use a lot of water include soup, rice, Jello, and oatmeal.

