

# Manganese in Private Well Water

## Manganese is naturally found in groundwater.

While small amounts of manganese are part of a healthy diet, high levels of manganese may impact the nervous system, affect reproduction, and damage the kidneys.

## Test for manganese if your water is brown or black or stains your faucets, sinks, or laundry.



Test using a [Wisconsin certified lab](#).★

## Take action if the manganese level is equal to or greater than 300 micrograms per liter (µg/L).

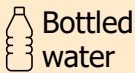


People over the age of 50 should immediately use a different source of water for drinking and making foods that take up lot of water (like rice, oatmeal, and jello).



Use a different source of water to make baby formula.

Options for different water include:



Bottled water



Water from a well without issues



Water from a public system



The water can still be used for bathing, brushing teeth, and washing dishes.



Collect a second sample to verify the results.

## Take additional actions if manganese is still high.



**Everyone** should use the different source of water for drinking and making foods that take up a lot of water.



Find a long-term solution. This may be installing a certified treatment device or drilling a new well.★

★ = Additional information is available in the *Resource Guide* (next page).





## ★ Resource Guide ★



Households with pregnant people and young children may be eligible for **free testing** through their local health department. You can find contact information for your health department at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties/index.htm).



When testing, you should use a **lab** certified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). You can find a list of certified labs at [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/labCert/certified-lab-lists](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/labCert/certified-lab-lists).



The DNR provides **grants** to help address contamination in private wells. Learn about eligibility and covered expenses at [dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/WellCompensation.html](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/WellCompensation.html).



Our *Water Treatment Devices for Private Well Contaminants* fact sheet has information on certified **treatment devices** for manganese: [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03494.pdf](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03494.pdf).



**You should also test for arsenic, bacteria, and nitrate regularly.**

You can find information on these and other substances to consider testing for at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/private.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/private.htm).

You can find all this information and more at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/manganese.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/manganese.htm).

Questions? Concerns?

Contact us at  
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