

Dougherty County has an elevated risk profile. Nitrate exceeds recommended limits in approximately 8% of tested wells, driven by agricultural sources. Contamination is often invisible — testing is the only way to confirm your well's safety.

**4%**HOUSEHOLDS ON  
PRIVATE WELLS**Varies**PRIMARY  
AQUIFER TYPE**ELEVATED**OVERALL  
RISK LEVEL**YOUR TOP WATER QUALITY RISKS**

| CONTAMINANT       | HOW COMMON                  | RISK LEVEL          | SOURCE & CONTEXT                                                                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Nitrate</b>    | ~8% above limit             | <b>Moderate</b>     | <b>Agricultural</b> — Fertilizer, manure, and septic systems leaching into groundwater |
| <b>Arsenic</b>    | ~8% above limit             | <b>Moderate</b>     | <b>Geological</b> — Naturally dissolves from bedrock and glacial sediment              |
| <b>Manganese*</b> | ~6% above aesthetic limit   | <b>Moderate</b>     | <b>Geological</b> — Found in reducing aquifer zones alongside iron                     |
| <b>Iron*</b>      | ~5% above aesthetic limit   | <b>Moderate</b>     | <b>Geological</b> — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste        |
| <b>Chloride*</b>  | ~0.6% above aesthetic limit | <b>Low–Moderate</b> | <b>Road/Geological</b> — Road salt application and natural mineral deposits            |

\* Secondary standard — an aesthetic limit for taste, odor, or staining. Not a health-based EPA limit.

**WHAT TO DO NEXT**

- 1 Order a water test.**  
Test for Nitrate, Arsenic, Manganese, Iron, coliform bacteria. Bacteria annually; others every 3–5 years.
- 2 Get your free county report.**  
See full data, treatment options, and certified labs at <https://yourwaterreport.com/states/ga/dougherty-county/>
- 3 Upload your lab results.**  
We'll interpret them, flag anything above limits, and recommend next steps — free.

**KNOW YOUR WELL**

Well age / year drilled

Last water test date

Treatment systems installed

Well driller / service contact

**WHAT YOUR RESULTS MEAN**

Use this to interpret your lab report — match the contaminant to your result.

| IF YOUR TEST SHOWS              | WHAT IT MEANS                                    | CONSIDER                                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bacteria detected</b>        | <b>Immediate concern</b>                         | Shock chlorination; add UV system           |
| <b>Nitrate &gt; 10 mg/L</b>     | <b>EPA limit exceeded — risk for infants</b>     | RO filter; avoid for bottle-fed infants     |
| <b>Arsenic &gt; 10 µg/L</b>     | <b>EPA limit exceeded — chronic cancer risk</b>  | Reverse osmosis or activated alumina filter |
| <b>Manganese &gt; 0.05 mg/L</b> | <b>Aesthetic + health concern at high levels</b> | Oxidation + filtration system               |
| <b>Iron &gt; 0.3 mg/L</b>       | <b>Staining, taste — aesthetic issue</b>         | Oxidizing iron filter                       |

**WHO SHOULD USE THIS**

- Homeowners on private wells — not covered by public water testing
- Home buyers doing due diligence before closing
- Families with infants, elderly, or immunocompromised members
- Anyone who hasn't tested their well in the past 3 years

**LOCAL RESOURCES****Private Wells - Cumming Utilities**<https://cummingutilities.com/our-system/water-lab/private-well-water/>**Full county report**<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/ga/dougherty-county/>

Free personalized well water report at  
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/ga/dougherty-county/>

Data: EPA ECHO · USGS NWIS · Water Quality Portal · U.S. Census ACS  
For informational purposes only. Contact a licensed professional for testing and treatment.