Well water in Shelby County, Indiana

Test for Arsenic & Manganese

High Risk Wells here often exceed a health limit. Based on 10 wells tested. Confidence: Low. Top concerns: Arsenic, Iron, Manganese.

What tests found

SUBSTANCE	TESTED	OVER THE LIMIT	RISK
Health concerns			
Arsenic	10 wells	30%	**High risk**
Everyday water problems			
Hardness	6 wells	100%	**Very common**
Iron	10 wells	90%	**Very common**
Manganese	6 wells	83%	**Very common**
Sodium	10 wells	10%	**Common**

Low risk here: Nitrate, Lead, Fluoride, Mercury.

Rarely over the taste level here: Chloride, Sulfate.

Tested in too few wells to rate: Uranium, pH, Nitrite. The county page has every result.

What this means

Arsenic: Drinking water with arsenic for many years can cause skin problems and raises the risk of some cancers, including skin, bladder and lung cancer. A reverse osmosis filter at the kitchen tap, or a whole-house arsenic filter, can remove it.

Iron: Iron leaves orange or brown stains on sinks, toilets and laundry, can make water taste metallic, and can clog pipes and fixtures. It is not a health risk. A water softener handles small amounts; an iron filter handles more.

Manganese: Manganese leaves black or brown stains and can make water taste bitter or metallic. At high levels it can also affect health, especially for babies, so use other water for baby formula if your well is high. An oxidizing filter or a water softener can remove it.

What to test for

Make sure the test covers arsenic, iron, manganese and sodium. Test for bacteria and nitrate every year.

Only a test can tell you what is in your own well. A well next door can be different.

Where to get a test

Certified labs near Shelby County:

- Hancock Water Laboratory, Greenfield · 317-468-4424 · about 17 miles
- Element Laboratories -Columbus, Columbus · 812-375-0531 · about 19 miles

Local help

Shelby County Health Department · 317-392-6470

in.gov/localhealth/shelbycounty

Indiana has no statewide rule for testing private wells, even when a home is sold. The state health department recommends testing at least once a year.

YourWaterReport is a free guide for private well owners. Results are for the county as a whole and come from Indiana Department of Environmental Management, U.S. Geological Survey and National Water Quality Monitoring Council. Want copies with your organization's name for your office or clients? Email hello@yourwaterreport.com. Free web card for your site: yourwaterreport.com/share