Well water in Prince George's County, Maryland

Test for Iron

Risk Unknown Too few health tests to rate. Based on 9 well sites tested. Confidence: Low. Top concerns: Iron, Manganese.

What tests found

SUBSTANCE	TESTED	OVER THE LIMIT	RISK
Everyday water problems			
Iron	17 well sites	65%	**Very common**
Hardness	17 well sites	47%	**Very common**
pH	8 well sites	38%	**Very common**
Manganese	15 well sites	13%	**Common**

Low risk here: Arsenic, Nitrate, Lead, Uranium, Fluoride, Nitrite, Radon.

Rarely over the taste level here: Sodium, Chloride, Sulfate.

What this means

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 iron and manganese. 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 Prince George's County:

- EMSL Analytical, Inc - Beltsville, Beltsville · 301-937-5700 · about 14 miles
- Home Land Labs - Waldorf, Waldorf · 240-448-5600 · about 15 miles

Local help

Prince George's County Health Department

princegeorgescountymd.gov/1588/Health-Services

Phone numbers and addresses:
health.maryland.gov/pages/departments.aspx

In Maryland, a home sale contract must have the buyer test the well for bacteria and nitrate before settlement. The buyer can give up the test in writing.

YourWaterReport is a free guide for private well owners. Results are for the county as a whole and come from 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