Well water in Piscataquis County, Maine

Test for Iron

High Risk Wells here often exceed a health limit. Based on 345 wells tested. Confidence: High. Top concerns: Arsenic, PFAS, Iron.

What tests found

SUBSTANCE	TESTED	OVER THE LIMIT	RISK
Health concerns			
Arsenic	345 wells	14%	**High risk**
PFOA	30 wells	10%	**High risk**
PFOS	30 wells	3%	**Moderate risk**
Everyday water problems			
Iron	15 wells	53%	**Very common**

Low risk here: Nitrate, Uranium, PFHxS, Fluoride, Nitrite, PFBS, GenX, PFAS (6 Added Together).

Rarely over the taste level here: Manganese, Hardness.

Tested in too few wells to rate: Lead, Sodium, Chloride, Sulfate, pH, Radon. 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.

PFAS: PFAS are man-made chemicals that do not break down. Drinking them for years is linked to some cancers, a weaker immune system, high cholesterol and lower birth weight.

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.

What to test for

Make sure the test covers arsenic, PFAS and iron. 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

Free or low-cost testing:

- If you get MaineCare, SNAP, TANF or other benefits, Maine CDC will send you a free well water test kit from the state lab. Ask for it on Maine CDC's online well water request form.

Certified labs near Piscataquis County:

- ClearWater Laboratory, Newport · 207-368-5786 · about 69 miles
- Mi'Kmaq Environmental Laboratory, Presque Isle · 207-764-4001 · about 86 miles

Local help

Maine does not require a water test when a home is sold, but the seller must tell the buyer the date of the last water test and about any bad test or test that found PFAS.

YourWaterReport is a free guide for private well owners. Results are for the county as a whole and come from Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Geological Survey and others. 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