

Coliform Bacteria
Nitrate + Nitrite
Lead

For further information please refer to the following websites:

- www.epa.gov
- www.epa.state.oh.us
- www.awwa.org

Is My Water Safe To Drink?

Alloway recommends to have your well tested for Coliform Bacteria, Nitrate + Nitrite, and Lead by an Ohio EPA Certified Laboratory. Although this list is not comprehensive and analysis does not guarantee your water is safe, analysis of these contaminants can provide valuable information about the quality of your water.

Coliform Bacteria

Coliform bacteria are microorganisms that are naturally occurring in the intestines of mammals. Coliform bacteria are not normally present in groundwater, so their existence suggest contamination. They are generally not pathogenic, however, they are indicators of conditions in which other harmful viruses or bacteria may exist. Private wells should be tested for Coliform bacteria periodically. If you suspect your well may be contaminated, or notice change in the color, odor, or taste of your drinking water, a Coliform bacteria test should be performed.

You may take the sample, but you must pick up a sample container and instructions from the testing facility. The container must be sterile and contain a dechlorinating agent. To meet Ohio EPA regulations, the container *must* be provided by the testing facility.

A positive result means that Coliform bacteria was detected in your sample. This could mean one of two things, either the sampling procedure was not correctly performed, or the well is contaminated. First, you should review the procedure and look for possible errors. A final result of Total Coliform negative indicates no coliform bacteria were found. This negative result meets OEPA acceptance limits. If you resample and the result is still positive, the best thing to do is treat the well. Contact your local Health Department for an approved treatment procedure.

Nitrate + Nitrite

Nitrate and Nitrite are inorganic forms of nitrogen that occur naturally as a part of the nitrogen gas cycle. Nitrates in the soil tend to increase in the spring and summer when fertilizers are being used. Although plants take in the majority of the nitrates, they escape in the fall when crops are harvested and run off into our lakes and rivers. Because nitrate dissolves in water, it moves easily in streams and groundwater. Other sources of Nitrate/Nitrite pollution are Wastewater and Septic Effluent, Animal Waste, Fossil Fuels, and Industrial discharge. In the United States, the major sources of nitrogen pollution are agricultural fertilizers, atmospheric deposition, and animal manure.

Too much nitrate in drinking water can cause Methemoglobinemia in infants, this disease is commonly known as Blue Baby Syndrome. Nitrates are broken down in the human intestines to form nitrite. The nitrite reacts with hemoglobin to form methemoglobin, which inhibits the ability of red blood cells to transport oxygen to organs.

Public water supplies are mandated to test for Nitrate/Nitrite on a regular basis, however, private well owners are not. You should test your water periodically for Nitrate/Nitrite. If you live in an agricultural area or if you suspect your well is contaminated you might want to test more often.

The USEPA has set a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10mg/L for nitrate as nitrogen and a MCL of 1mg/L for nitrite as nitrogen in drinking water. You may perform the sampling, but you need to pick up a sample container and instructions from the testing facility.



Alloway analytical services are available at our Lima, Mansfield, and Marion locations:

Lima:
1101 N. Cole St.
Lima, OH 45805
Phone: 419-223-1362
Fax: 419-227-3792

Mansfield:
508 Bissman Court
Mansfield, OH 44903
Phone: 419-525-1644
Fax: 419-524-5575

Marion:
1776 Marion-Waldo Rd.
Marion, OH 43302
Phone: 740-389-5991
Fax: 740-389-1481

www.alloway.com

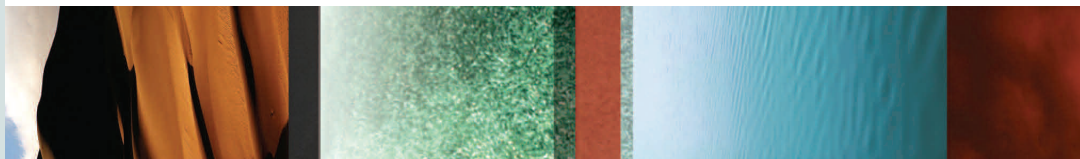
Lead

Lead is a toxic metal used in the past in many products. Lead in drinking water is often the result of plumbing with lead solder. If you live near a landfill or disposal site you may be at risk as lead could leach into the groundwater and contaminate your well.

Lead poisoning in children can cause damage to the brain and nervous system as well as behavioral, growth, and hearing problems. Although children are of most concern, lead is toxic to adults as well and can cause many health problems, some of which are very serious.

If you suspect lead in your water, you should request a test. According to the EPA, the action level for lead is 15 ug/L or 15 ppb. You may take the sample, but you should pick up a container along with instructions from the testing facility.

Please note that this testing focuses on analyses to determine water quality with regards to health and safety rather than aesthetics. If you have questions regarding the aesthetics of your water such as taste, odor, color, etc. assistance is available from various water conditioning companies.



Drinking Water Analysis

**Please visit our website
www.alloway.com
to order your Drinking Water Analysis.**

Please call **1-800-436-1243** or email support@alloway.com for more information.