

Guide to Identifying Contaminated Well Water



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Water Treatment Solutions for Your Maryland Home or Business!

There's no way around it—clean water is a necessary part of both home and work life. Whether you need it for cleaning household items, bathing, drinking, or cooking, you simply can't do without clean water! If you've noticed any significant changes in your water's odor, taste, or appearance, there's a good chance one or more contaminants are present. Pollutants aren't always detectable, but there are common signs that point to issues with the quality of water at your home or business.

Continue reading for a list of the most common signs of contaminated water and how Water Doctor can help resolve the issue with water treatment solutions.

Common Odor Issues with Water

Rotten egg odor

The smell of rotten eggs likely means you have a sulfur problem. Sulfur may be treated with chlorine injection systems or natural aeration systems. Water Doctor prefers the natural aeration, as it avoids the presence of disinfection byproducts that chlorine produces in your water. Carbon and other "granular media" on the market can improve odors and sometimes work, but are not 100% effective on sulfur removal. If you choose these treatments, get a money-back guarantee. Water Doctor's Iron Guard is a healthy way you can remove sulphur and other contaminants from your water, but we'll make a custom plan for you based on your water analysis. Sulfur is not harmful to your health, but makes water unpleasant to drink for you and your guests.

Chlorine odor

Some chlorine in your water is okay, but if the smell of chlorine is strong or particularly unpleasant, then there is likely too much of it. If you notice this smell, you should get your water tested to determine the levels of chlorine present. If it turns out the levels are too high, our team can help determine the best water filtration system or water treatment option for you! When chlorine is present, byproducts of chlorine such as trihalomethanes may also be present. Granular activated carbon and carbon block are very effective at treating chlorine. Ask our experts which product best fits your needs and goals.

Gas odor

Smelling petroleum in your water is rare, but if you do, then you should immediately stop using the water and call Water Doctor immediately. This means that your water is contaminated with fuel, gasoline additives, or petroleum that could be extremely harmful to your health. If you live within a ¼ mile of a gas station or a commercial facility you should consider a wide range VOC test every 3-5 years. Also, if you or your neighbor has a buried oil tank (for heating) some testing and education is recommended. For important tips on managing your oil tank, call Water Doctor to receive your oil tank inspection list.



Moldy, grassy, or fishy odor

Unusual smells along these lines mean there may be bacterial overgrowth in your water. The most likely course of action is utilizing UV water treatment or well chlorination to eliminate microorganisms and coliform bacteria.

Common Taste Issues with Water

Salty taste

When your water tastes salty, one source is a malfunction of an existing water softener, which should be investigated. A correctly installed and properly functioning water softener should not leave the water tasting salty. Another source is “road salt,” which has become an emerging problem in our region’s wells. Our experts will evaluate the source and offer a recommendation.

Metallic taste

A metallic taste indicates that the water has high levels of iron, manganese, copper, lead, or zinc. Water Doctor has several solutions for treating high iron levels and hard water caused by the buildup of minerals, including water softeners and our specially designed Iron Guard System. A common source of metallic taste is acidic water, which corrodes copper piping and fixtures and leaches metals into the water. Avoid chemical treatment for acidic water, and call Water Doctor to learn about our natural treatment systems. These systems not only provide better-tasting water for the whole home, but more importantly, prevent leaks and corrosion of plumbing, appliances, and fixtures.

Other Signs of Problem Water

Brown or orange stains

If you’ve noticed an orange or brown stain on your tubs, sinks, toilets, or laundry, there’s a good chance iron is present in your water. Common treatments for iron include water softeners (cation exchange), filtration tanks using various media, and aeration systems.

Stiff laundry, soap scum, or mineral buildup

If you notice that your clothes are stiff or scratchy after you wash them or that soap scum and mineral buildup are present in your tubs or showers, you might be dealing with hard water due to high calcium and magnesium levels. Other signs of hard water include soap not lathering properly and issues with hot water heater performance. Water softeners are a common solution for hard water problems, but we’ll work with you to discuss what’s best based on your free analysis!

Do You Need Well Water Treatment at Your Maryland Home?

Our expert team has been working to eliminate pollutants in the water in the Baltimore, Maryland area for more than three decades! We are familiar with the issues that commonly arise and how to best treat them. Water Doctor employs more Water Quality Association Specialists than any other company in Maryland! Why would you go anywhere else for your water treatment needs?

Water Doctor offers a free water analysis to determine what contaminants are present in your water. To get started, contact us today.

