

Interpretation of Common Tests

All results are measured in milligrams per liter.

<u>Test</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Objectionable</u>
Chloride	ND – 20	20 – 250	Over 250 mg/L
Fluoride	0.7 - 1.2	ND - 0.7 or 1.2 - 4	Over 4.0 mg/L (USEPA drinking water standard is 4.0 mg/L for the state of Michigan)
Hardness	50 – 125	125 – 250	Over 250 mg/L or less than 25 (17.1 = 1 grain)
Iron	ND - 0.2	0.2 - 0.3	Over 0.3 mg/L
Nitrate	ND - 3	4 - 10	Over 10 mg/L (USEPA drinking water standard)
Nitrite	ND - 0.3	0.4 – 1	Over 1 mg/L (USEPA drinking water standard)
Sodium	ND – 20	See below	See below
Sulfate	ND – 50	50 – 250	Over 250 mg/L Over 500 mg/L (See Related Problems)

ND = "Not Detected"

<u>TEST</u>	<u>RELATED PROBLEMS</u>
Chloride	Taste and corrosion.
Fluoride	Lower levels are beneficial in preventing tooth decay. High levels may cause mottling of enamel.
Hardness	Scaling of water fixtures, soap scum at high levels, corrosion at low levels.
Iron	Staining, turbidity, taste, and odor.
Nitrate	Levels greater than 10mg/L are a health hazard. Methemoglobinemia (blue baby) especially infants. USEPA requires analysis within 48 hours.
Nitrite	Levels greater than 1.0 mg/L are a health hazard. Methemoglobinemia (blue baby) especially infants. USEPA requires analysis within 48 hours.
Sodium	Special diets may require water of low sodium content. NOTE: all persons on severely restricted sodium diets should consult with their physician regarding continued use of the water supply. Acceptability of sodium concentration varies with sensitivity to taste.
Sulfate	Taste, odor, scaling in boilers & heat exchangers. Over 500 may have laxative effect especially for new supply users (travelers diarrhea).