



WATER QUALITY TEST KIT

The **PRO-LAB® Water Quality Test Kit** contains eight (8) individually foil wrapped, laboratory grade test strips, allowing you to perform two (2) of each test in order to determine the quality of your drinking water.

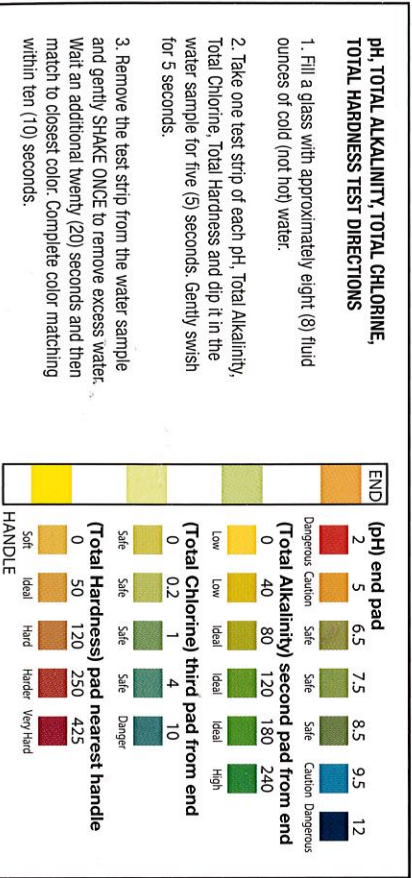
There are also directions on this page, to check for two (2) additional contaminants, iron bacteria and hydrogen sulfide. Each test has its own directions. For accurate results, you must follow the directions exactly.

pH is a measure of the acidic or alkaline property of water. Water with low pH (< 6.5) will cause corrosion of both copper (blue-green staining) and galvanized plumbing, which can lead to serious damage to plumbing and equipment, especially water heaters. Water with a low pH can also release harmful amounts of lead into your water from solder joints, pipes, and fixtures.

Total Alkalinity is the ability of water to neutralize acidity. A low total alkalinity may cause your water to have and objectionable taste, contribute to scaling on your dishes, fixtures and shower walls. High alkalinity can also cause excessive skin dryness and cause the pH to be high as well. Low alkalinity can cause an excess of lead to be in your water.

Total Chlorine affects the taste and odor of your water and may irritate your skin and eyes. Chlorine is used to disinfect water in both private and public water systems. Disinfecting your well with excessive amounts of chlorine may react with organic matter to form trihalomethanes, which may have adverse health effects when present in high amounts.

Total Hardness is a measure of dissolved minerals, specifically calcium and magnesium in your water. Hard water, over 121 parts per million, tends to form scale on the inside of pipes, shortening the life of plumbing. It can cause ugly staining on fixtures and cause hidden scale buildup, costing significant amount of money to fix before you realize it. Hard water can interfere with the cleaning effectiveness of detergents, causing laundry to look dingy and feel scratchy. Hair can feel dull and lifeless and be hard to manage. Hard water can deposit on inside of pipes and restrict water flow.



Iron can be dissolved in your drinking water and is essential to good health. However, iron levels about 0.3 parts per million can cause staining your plumbing fixtures and stain laundry reddish-brown, orange, or yellow.



Copper is commonly found in drinking water in small amounts. However, high copper levels can cause upset stomach, diarrhea, and headaches. The presence of copper also affects the taste of water and may stain your porcelain toilets and sinks. Too much copper is toxic to aquarium fish.



Nitrate/Nitrite in drinking water comes from agricultural and urban runoff, fertilizer, poorly maintained septic systems, animal sewage, and natural deposits. Too much nitrate can cause "Blue-Baby Syndrome" and can be fatal in infants less than 6 months old. Pregnant, expecting and nursing women should avoid drinking water high in nitrates.

