

## Why Test Your Well Water for Color?

### What is a color test for water?

Your water should be clear and colorless. If your drinking water has a color, it can indicate that there may be:

- Dissolved organic material
- Inadequate treatment or treatment by-products
- Inorganic materials, such as iron or manganese.

### Are there any potential health effects of color?

Color itself is not a health problem. However, there may be a health concern depending on what is causing the color. Most of the time discolored water will only cause nuisance problems like staining of laundry or plumbing fixtures.

### What is the standard for color in drinking water?

The [Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level](#), as set by the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) is 15 color units. At 15 color units, people will notice discolored water.

### Test your well water for color:

- Every year
- Anytime you notice a change in the color of your water
- Have your well water tested at a [certified laboratory](#)

### If my water is discolored, how do I treat it?

Treating for color will depend on what is causing the water's discoloration. Refer to your lab results and contact URI Cooperative Extension at 401-874-5398 with questions about which treatment system you should use.