



## CONTAMINANTS FOUND IN WATER

Contaminant	Max Level	Sources	Effects
Arsenic	0.010 mg/L	Natural deposits, smelters, glass, electronics wastes, orchards	Skin, nervous system toxicity
Asbestos	7 MFL (million fibers / liter)	Natural deposits, asbestos cement in water systems	Cancer
Barium	2 mg/L	Natural deposits, pigments, epoxy sealants, spent coal	Circulatory system effects
Bacteria / Coliform	-	animal & human waste, septic fields, sewage, farming	various illnesses
Cadmium	0.005 mg/L	Natural deposits, galvanized pipe corrosion, batteries, paints	Kidney disorders
Chloradane	0.002 mg/L	Leaching from soil treatment for termites	Cancer
Chlorine	4 mg/L	Water disinfection	see chlorination by-products (Trihalomethanes)
Chromium-6	0.1 mg/L	Natural deposits, mining, electroplating, pigments	Liver, kidney, circulatory disorders
Copper	1.3 mg/L	Natural / industrial deposits, wood preservatives, plumbing	Gastrointestinal irritation
Cryptosporidium	Zero	Animal or human waste, contaminated food products	Gastrointestinal illness
E.coli	Zero	Naturally occurring, human or animal wastes	Gastrointestinal disorders (often severe)
Fluoride	4 mg/L	Natural deposits, fertilizer, aluminum industries, water additive	Skeletal and dental fluorosis

Giardia	Zero	Naturally occurring, human or animal wastes	Gastrointestinal disorders (Beaver Fever)
Hydrogen Sulfide	n/a	Natural deposits	Rotten egg taste and odour
Iron	0.3 mg/L	Natural deposits	Staining of laundry, plumbing, appliances
Manganese	0.05 mg/L	Natural deposits	Staining of laundry, plumbing, appliances
Mercury	0.002 mg/L	Crop runoff, natural deposits, batteries, electrical switches	Kidney, nervous system disorders
Microbiological Contaminants	-	animal & human waste, septic fields, sewage, farming	various illnesses
Nitrate / Nitrite	10 mg/L	Animal waste, fertilizer, natural deposits, septic tanks, sewage	Methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome)
PCB	10.0005 mg/L	Coolant oils from electrical transformers, plasticizers	Cancer
Radium	5 pCi/L	Natural deposits	Bone cancer
Radon		Natural deposits	Cancer
Selenium	0.05 mg/L	Natural deposits, mining, smelting, coal/oil combustion	Liver damage
Sulphate	500 mg/L	Naturally-occurring	laxative effect - gastrointestinal irritation
Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/L	Erosion of naturally occurring mineral deposits	Gastrointestinal irritation in some individuals
<a href="#">Toxaphene</a>	0.003 mg/L	Insecticide formerly used on cattle, cotton, soybeans	Cancer

Trihalomethanes (THMs)(chlorination by-products)	0.08 mg/L	By-product of chlorination in drinking water	Cancer
Turbidity	n/a (5 NTU max. recommended)	Soil runoff	Interferes with disinfection, filtration
Uranium	0.03 mg/L	Natural occurring	Kidney disorders, cancer
Viruses	-	animal & human waste, septic fields, sewage, farming	various illnesses
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	Varied	Varied	Varied, incl. cancer
Zinc	5 mg/L	Natural deposits, industrial waste	Metallic taste in water