

HEALTH IMPACT OF PARAMETERS

PARAMETER	IMPACT ON HEALTH	OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND VALUES
CRITICAL PARAMETERS		
<i>E. coli</i> and total coliforms	Specific indicator of pollution originating from humans and warm-blooded animals. It has the same health risks as faecal coliforms.	One colony (blue or red spots) already tells us there is a risk of infection.
Nitrate	Causes 'Blue Baby' syndrome and tiredness in adults.	More than 10 ppm, but 25 ppm poses a significant risk.
Nitrite	Could cause cancer, e.g, colon cancer.	More than 1 ppm poses a significant risk.
6-IN-1 CHEMICAL STRIP		
pH	Health effects are never solely based on pH levels. pH is closely associated with other aspects of water, for example alkalinity and metal ions (e.g., copper, iron, and lead).	If these values are outside the acceptable levels, do not drink the water.
Chlorine (residual/free)	Very high concentrations (>3 ppm), cause nausea and vomiting.	The absence of chlorine must be evaluated with <i>E. coli</i> / coliform counts.
Chlorine (total)	Very high concentrations (>3 ppm), cause nausea and vomiting.	The same health risks as chlorine (free) mentioned above.
Bromide	Not a direct impact on health.	Generally, it does not have negative health effects at the concentrations usually found in water.
Hardness (total), alkalinity	Not a direct impact on health.	Hardness is beneficial to health; however, excessive hardness should be avoided by sensitive groups.

METAL TEST STRIP

Copper, aluminium, manganese	Not a direct short-term impact on health.	Generally, it does not have negative health effects at the concentrations usually found in water.
Iron	Health effects may occur at extremely high concentrations (more than 2 000 ppb, with significant consequences at >5 000 ppb.)	The greatest effects of iron in water are aesthetic.
Mercury and chromium	Levels should comply with drinking water guidelines. Report high values and seek treatment.	Their presence indicates external contamination and should be further investigated. Even low levels are unsafe. If you suspect that the water or environment is contaminated with these components, additional tests must be conducted.
Lead	Metabolically, lead interacts with iron and interferes with haemoglobin synthesis, while long-term exposure causes neurological impairment.	The presence of lead indicates external contamination and should be further investigated. Even low levels are unsafe. Conduct additional tests if you suspect that the water or the environment is contaminated with lead.
Antimony, cadmium, arsenic, cobalt, nickel, selenium, vanadium	These metals all have chronic health implications, even if low concentrations are present.	Their presence indicates external contamination and should be further investigated. Even low levels are unsafe. If you suspect that the water or the environment is contaminated with these components, conduct additional tests.

PHOSPHATE STRIP

Phosphate	The main effects are primarily based on aesthetics, although indirect health effects can be associated with the possible presence of faecal matter and fertilisers (>25 ppm).
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