

Polk County has an elevated risk profile. Pfos exceeds recommended limits in approximately 24% of tested wells, driven by industrial sources. Contamination is often invisible — testing is the only way to confirm your well's safety.

9%

HOUSEHOLDS ON
PRIVATE WELLS

Varies

PRIMARY
AQUIFER TYPE

ELEVATED

OVERALL
RISK LEVEL

YOUR TOP WATER QUALITY RISKS

CONTAMINANT	HOW COMMON	RISK LEVEL	SOURCE & CONTEXT
PFOS	~24% above limit	High	Industrial — Firefighting foam and industrial discharge
Iron*	~18% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste
Nitrate	~16% above limit	High	Agricultural — Fertilizer, manure, and septic systems leaching into groundwater
Sulfate*	~10% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Natural dissolution from gypsum and sulfate minerals
Manganese*	~8% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Found in reducing aquifer zones alongside iron

* Secondary standard — an aesthetic limit for taste, odor, or staining. Not a health-based EPA limit.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

- Order a water test.**
Test for PFOS, Iron, Nitrate, Sulfate, coliform bacteria. Bacteria annually; others every 3–5 years.
- Get your free county report.**
See full data, treatment options, and certified labs at <https://yourwaterreport.com/states/fl/polk-county/>
- Upload your lab results.**
We'll interpret them, flag anything above limits, and recommend next steps — free.

KNOW YOUR WELL

Well age / year drilled

Last water test date

Treatment systems installed

Well driller / service contact

WHAT YOUR RESULTS MEAN

Use this to interpret your lab report — match the contaminant to your result.

IF YOUR TEST SHOWS	WHAT IT MEANS	CONSIDER
Bacteria detected	Immediate concern	Shock chlorination; add UV system
PFOS detected	Health advisory level	Reverse osmosis filter
Iron > 0.3 mg/L	Staining, taste — aesthetic issue	Oxidizing iron filter
Nitrate > 10 mg/L	EPA limit exceeded — risk for infants	RO filter; avoid for bottle-fed infants
Manganese > 0.05 mg/L	Aesthetic + health concern at high levels	Oxidation + filtration system

WHO SHOULD USE THIS

- Homeowners on private wells — not covered by public water testing
- Home buyers doing due diligence before closing
- Families with infants, elderly, or immunocompromised members
- Anyone who hasn't tested their well in the past 3 years

LOCAL RESOURCES

Private Well Water Testing - Florida Department of Health
<https://www.floridahealth.gov/community-environmental-public-health/environmental-public-health/water-quality/drinking-water/private-wells>

Full county report
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/fl/polk-county/>

Free personalized well water report at
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/fl/polk-county/>

Data: EPA ECHO · USGS NWIS · Water Quality Portal · U.S. Census ACS
For informational purposes only. Contact a licensed professional for testing and treatment.