

Columbia County has an elevated risk profile. Iron is the primary concern, driven by geological sources. Contamination is often invisible — testing is the only way to confirm your well's safety.

N/A

HOUSEHOLDS ON  
PRIVATE WELLS

Varies

PRIMARY  
AQUIFER TYPE

ELEVATED

OVERALL  
RISK LEVEL

## YOUR TOP WATER QUALITY RISKS

| CONTAMINANT | HOW COMMON                 | RISK LEVEL   | SOURCE & CONTEXT                                                                |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Iron*       | ~10% above aesthetic limit | Moderate     | Geological — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste        |
| Sulfate*    | ~91% of wells              | Low–Moderate | Geological — Natural dissolution from gypsum and sulfate minerals               |
| Nitrate     | ~85% of wells              | Low–Moderate | Agricultural — Fertilizer, manure, and septic systems leaching into groundwater |
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\* 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 Iron, Sulfate, 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/ga/columbia-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       |
| 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 |

## 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 Wells - Cumming Utilities

<https://cummingutilities.com/our-system/water-lab/private-well-water/>

## Full county report

<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/ga/columbia-county/>

Free personalized well water report at

<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/ga/columbia-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.