

Baraga County has a moderate risk profile above glacial aquifers. Manganese is detected in ~50% of wells, driven by geological sources. Contamination is often invisible — testing is the only way to confirm your well's safety.

32%

HOUSEHOLDS ON PRIVATE WELLS

Glacial aquifers

PRIMARY AQUIFER TYPE

MODERATE

OVERALL RISK LEVEL

YOUR TOP WATER QUALITY RISKS

| CONTAMINANT | HOW COMMON | RISK LEVEL | SOURCE & CONTEXT |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| Manganese* | ~50% of wells | Moderate | Geological — Found in reducing aquifer zones alongside iron |
| Iron* | ~35% above aesthetic limit | Moderate | Geological — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste |
| Sulfate* | ~97% of wells | Low-Moderate | Geological — Natural dissolution from gypsum and sulfate minerals |
| Nitrate | ~93% of wells | Low-Moderate | Agricultural — Fertilizer, manure, and septic systems leaching into groundwater |
| Chloride* | ~98% of wells | Low-Moderate | Road/Geological — Road salt application and natural mineral deposits |

* 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 Manganese, Iron, Sulfate, Nitrate, 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/mi/baraga-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 |
| Manganese > 0.05 mg/L | Aesthetic + health concern at high levels | Oxidation + filtration 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

Well Testing Services | Raven Analytical Laboratories
<https://ravenwaterlab.com/>
Full county report
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/mi/baraga-county/>

Free personalized well water report at <https://yourwaterreport.com/states/mi/baraga-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.