

Bay County has a moderate risk profile above glacial aquifers. Manganese is detected in ~67% of wells, driven by geological sources. Contamination is often invisible — testing is the only way to confirm your well's safety.

5%

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*	~67% of wells	Moderate	Geological — Found in reducing aquifer zones alongside iron
Iron*	~79% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste
Chloride*	~34% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Road/Geological — Road salt application and natural mineral deposits
Sulfate*	~21% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Natural dissolution from gypsum and sulfate minerals
Lead	~7% above limit	Moderate	Infrastructure — Older well casing materials and household plumbing

* 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, Chloride, 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/mi/bay-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
Lead > 15 µg/L	EPA action level exceeded	RO filter; inspect well casing

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/bay-county/>

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