

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

17%

HOUSEHOLDS ON PRIVATE WELLS

Glacial aquifers

PRIMARY AQUIFER TYPE

ELEVATED

OVERALL RISK LEVEL

YOUR TOP WATER QUALITY RISKS

CONTAMINANT	HOW COMMON	RISK LEVEL	SOURCE & CONTEXT
Iron*	~100% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste
Manganese*	~38% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Found in reducing aquifer zones alongside iron
Sulfate*	~24% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Natural dissolution from gypsum and sulfate minerals
Nitrate	~4% above limit	Moderate	Agricultural — Fertilizer, manure, and septic systems leaching into groundwater
Chloride*	~4% above aesthetic limit	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 Iron, Manganese, 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/ottawa-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

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Last water test date

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Treatment systems installed

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Well driller / service contact

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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
Manganese > 0.05 mg/L	Aesthetic + health concern at high levels	Oxidation + filtration system
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/ottawa-county/>

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