

St. Joseph County has a moderate risk profile above glacial aquifers. Iron is detected in ~100% of wells, driven by geological sources. Contamination is often invisible — testing is the only way to confirm your well's safety.

18%

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
Iron*	~100% of wells	Moderate	Geological — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste
Manganese*	~67% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Found in reducing aquifer zones alongside iron
Nitrite	~94% of wells	Low-Moderate	
Nitrate	~97% of wells	Low-Moderate	Agricultural — Fertilizer, manure, and septic systems leaching into groundwater
Fluoride	~100% of wells	Low-Moderate	Geological — Naturally elevated in some deep or volcanic aquifers

* 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, Nitrite, 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/st-joseph-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
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
Fluoride > 4 mg/L	EPA limit exceeded — skeletal risk	RO filter or activated alumina

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/st-joseph-county/>

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