

Lake of the Woods County has a moderate risk profile. Pfoa exceeds recommended limits in approximately 78% of tested wells, driven by industrial sources. Contamination is often invisible — testing is the only way to confirm your well's safety.

72%HOUSEHOLDS ON
PRIVATE WELLS**Varies**PRIMARY
AQUIFER TYPE**MODERATE**OVERALL
RISK LEVEL**YOUR TOP WATER QUALITY RISKS**

CONTAMINANT	HOW COMMON	RISK LEVEL	SOURCE & CONTEXT
PFOA	~78% above limit	High	Industrial — Firefighting foam and industrial manufacturing discharge
Pfhxs	~100% of wells	High	
PFOS	~50% of wells	High	Industrial — Firefighting foam and industrial discharge
Manganese*	~45% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Found in reducing aquifer zones alongside iron
Iron*	~23% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste

* 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 PFOA, Pfhxs, PFOS, Manganese, 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/mn/lake-of-the-woods-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
PFOA detected	Health advisory level	Reverse osmosis filter
PFOS detected	Health advisory level	Reverse osmosis filter
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

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

Order Water Tests - Minnesota Well Owners Organization
<https://mnwoo.org/order-water-tests>

Full county report
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/mn/lake-of-the-woods-county/>

Free personalized well water report at
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/mn/lake-of-the-woods-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.