

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

30%HOUSEHOLDS ON
PRIVATE WELLS**Varies**PRIMARY
AQUIFER TYPE**ELEVATED**OVERALL
RISK LEVEL**YOUR TOP WATER QUALITY RISKS**

CONTAMINANT	HOW COMMON	RISK LEVEL	SOURCE & CONTEXT
Iron*	~58% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste
Manganese*	~58% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Found in reducing aquifer zones alongside iron
Arsenic	~48% above limit	High	Geological — Naturally dissolves from bedrock and glacial sediment
Nitrate	~20% above limit	High	Agricultural — Fertilizer, manure, and septic systems leaching into groundwater
Lead	~5% 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

- 1 Order a water test.**
Test for Iron, Manganese, Arsenic, Nitrate, coliform bacteria. Bacteria annually; others every 3–5 years.
- 2 Get your free county report.**
See full data, treatment options, and certified labs at <https://yourwaterreport.com/states/mn/polk-county/>
- 3 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
Arsenic > 10 µg/L	EPA limit exceeded — chronic cancer risk	Reverse osmosis or activated alumina filter
Nitrate > 10 mg/L	EPA limit exceeded — risk for infants	RO filter; avoid for bottle-fed infants
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

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

Full county report
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/mn/polk-county/>

Free personalized well water report at
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/mn/polk-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.