

McDowell County has a lower-risk groundwater profile. Manganese is detected in ~75% of wells, driven by geological sources. Contamination is often invisible — testing is the only way to confirm your well's safety.

**N/A**  
HOUSEHOLDS ON PRIVATE WELLS

**Varies**  
PRIMARY AQUIFER TYPE

**LOW**  
OVERALL RISK LEVEL

**YOUR TOP WATER QUALITY RISKS**

CONTAMINANT	HOW COMMON	RISK LEVEL	SOURCE & CONTEXT
<b>Manganese*</b>	~75% of wells	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Geological</b> — Found in reducing aquifer zones alongside iron
<b>Radon†</b>	~100% of wells	<b>Advisory</b>	<b>Geological</b> — Radioactive gas dissolved from uranium-bearing rock
<b>Chloride*</b>	~96% of wells	<b>Low–Moderate</b>	<b>Road/Geological</b> — Road salt application and natural mineral deposits
<b>Sulfate*</b>	~95% of wells	<b>Low–Moderate</b>	<b>Geological</b> — Natural dissolution from gypsum and sulfate minerals
<b>Fluoride</b>	~50% of wells	<b>Low–Moderate</b>	<b>Geological</b> — Naturally elevated in some deep or volcanic aquifers

\* Secondary standard — an aesthetic limit for taste, odor, or staining. Not a health-based EPA limit.

† No finalized EPA primary MCL. Figure shows detection frequency, not regulatory exceedance.

**WHAT TO DO NEXT**

- Order a water test.**  
Test for Manganese, Radon, 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/nc/mcdowell-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
<b>Bacteria detected</b>	<b>Immediate concern</b>	Shock chlorination; add UV system
<b>Manganese &gt; 0.05 mg/L</b>	<b>Aesthetic + health concern at high levels</b>	Oxidation + filtration system
<b>Radon &gt; 4,000 pCi/L</b>	<b>EPA proposed limit; also affects indoor air</b>	Aeration system; test indoor air
<b>Fluoride &gt; 4 mg/L</b>	<b>EPA limit exceeded — skeletal risk</b>	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**

**Full county report**  
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/nc/mcdowell-county/>

Free personalized well water report at <https://yourwaterreport.com/states/nc/mcdowell-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.