

Columbia County has a moderate risk profile. Iron is detected in ~67% 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

MODERATE
OVERALL RISK LEVEL

YOUR TOP WATER QUALITY RISKS

CONTAMINANT	HOW COMMON	RISK LEVEL	SOURCE & CONTEXT
Iron*	~67% of wells	Moderate	Geological — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste
Arsenic	~38% above limit	High	Geological — Naturally dissolves from bedrock and glacial sediment
PFOA	~20% above limit	High	Industrial — Firefighting foam and industrial manufacturing discharge
PFOS	~15% above limit	High	Industrial — Firefighting foam and industrial discharge
Sulfate*	~9% above aesthetic limit	Moderate	Geological — Natural dissolution from gypsum and sulfate minerals

* 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, Arsenic, PFOA, PFOS, 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/pa/columbia-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
Arsenic > 10 µg/L	EPA limit exceeded — chronic cancer risk	Reverse osmosis or activated alumina filter
PFOA detected	Health advisory level	Reverse osmosis filter
PFOS detected	Health advisory level	Reverse osmosis 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

Water Testing | Department of Environmental Protection - PA.GOV
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/residents/my-water/private-wells/water-testing>

Full county report
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/pa/columbia-county/>

Free personalized well water report at
<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/pa/columbia-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.