



How to read your report

1. The **Analyte** column shows all the substances we tested in your water.
2. The **Units** column contains the measuring unit for each analyte. The unit mg/L (milligrams per Liter) is the same as ppm (parts per million).
3. The **Result** column shows the amount of each analyte we measured in your water. The symbol “<” means less than and the symbol “>” means greater than.
4. The **Guideline Limit** column refers to the current *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality* limits for each substance measured. There are 2 kinds of limits:
 - a) **Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC)** - These concentrations have been set up for substances that are known or suspected to affect your health. All substances tested must be below the MAC limit for the water to be considered Potable (Safe for Drinking Water).
 - b) **Aesthetic Objective (AO)** – Substances that are above these guideline limits can affect the look, taste or smell of your drinking water. They can also stain plumbing fixtures, dishes and laundry. If the concentration is well above the Aesthetic Objective, there is also a possibility it can affect your health. Please contact your local health officer. The water may still be designated potable, even if several analytes are above aesthetic. However, you may want to consider a treatment system to reduce these levels.
5. The **Guideline Comments** column shows whether your results meet the Guideline Limits.

Pass	- indicates your result was below the Maximum Acceptable Concentration.
Fail	- indicates your result was above the MAC and needs to be corrected.
Acceptable	- indicates your result was below the Aesthetic Objective limit.
Above Aesthetic	- indicates your result was above the AO limit, and may be a nuisance.

All drinking water supplies should be analyzed regularly for bacteria, particularly shallow wells. To determine if your water contains disease-causing bacteria, we perform 3 bacteria tests:

1. **Total Coliform** bacteria are composed of 2 groups. One group is found naturally in soil from dead or decaying vegetation (leaves, moss, algae). The presence of total coliforms in well water indicates surface water is getting into the well. The presence of the other group, faecal coliforms, usually indicates recent contamination of the water by human sewage or animal droppings, which could contain disease-causing bacteria, viruses or protozoa. Water containing faecal coliforms is **NOT** safe to drink.
2. **Escherichia coli**, or *E. coli* for short, makes up 95% to 98% of the bacteria in the fecal coliform group. The presence of *E. coli* in your water is a definite indication the water is contaminated by fecal material from human or animal sources.
3. **Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC)** - estimates the general background bacteria population. These bacteria will not affect your health, but is an indication that bacteria are growing in your well. A high HPC count may also mask the presence of coliform bacteria.

If any bacteria show **Fail**, play it safe and **boil your water before drinking**. Disinfecting your well and water distribution system will usually correct bacterial growth. We have provided information on how to disinfect your well yourself, or you can have a professional from a water treatment company or a well drilling company (check your yellow pages) perform the disinfection for you.

After your system has been cleaned, bring us another sample **and** your previous **Lot Number** for a Repeat Bacteria Test (\$30.98 including disposal fee and GST). If your previous water sample passed all the chemistry tests and the new water sample passes the bacteria tests, we can issue a **Certification of Potability**** as long as the 2 water samples were taken within 6 months of each other. If for any reason you install a water treatment system to obtain a Certification of Potability**, we only need to retest for the problem substance.

** Your Bodycote lab report compares the guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality with the values measured in your water. We can not test for every potential contaminant in water; thus, our certificate of potability is only based on the substances listed on your report. Please contact your local Health Officer for further information, or if you have a number of substances that are “above aesthetic”. For more information on water contaminants and filtration systems, please visit: www.nsf.org.