

# You CAN Drink the Water!

## *Why are we concerned about the quality of our drinking water?*

Every person requires at least 5 to 10 gallons a day of clean, safe water for drinking, cooking, and keeping themselves clean. If you drink polluted water you can become very sick or even die. Tap water in the US is one of the safest supplies in the world.

## *Where does our drinking water come from?*

Our drinking water comes from streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and even underground. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates drinking water from large public water systems across the country. Both private wells and small public water systems are not regulated by the EPA so people drinking water from these sources must make sure it is safe to drink



## *Is my water safe to drink?*

All water contains some impurities but not all of them are harmful. Various laws have been passed to keep contaminants (like sewage, chemicals, etc.) out of our water supply. All public water systems are required to meet these standards. Owners of private wells and other individual water systems are responsible for making sure their water is safe from contaminants.

## *How do I know if there is a problem with my water?*

Sometimes a change in the taste, color, or smell of your water can be a sign of a problem. If you notice any change, call your public water system company or local health department. Your health department has specially trained Environmental Health Specialists that can help you determine the best next steps when it comes to your private well and drinking water.

**For more information:** [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking)



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