

MY WATER APPEARS BROWN

LIKELY PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE NEEDED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
<p>Iron</p> <p>See Iron in Drinking Water brochure. There are two types of iron in water: clear water or soluble iron; or red water or insoluble iron. Treatment methods depend on which type of iron is present and at what level. Iron Bacteria can be associated with iron problems.</p>	<p>No, iron is a necessary mineral for human health. There is a nuisance drinking water standard for iron that is based on staining, appearance, taste and odor problems. If iron is present, often manganese is, too. See the Department of Health Fact Sheets.</p>	<p>Is there staining of laundry, tubs or sinks?</p> <p>Slowly run water into a bucket without aerating the water. If the water is clear at first then changes color after sitting awhile, then the problem is likely iron.</p>	<p>Test your water for iron, manganese, iron bacteria, pH, alkalinity and hardness. Contact a laboratory certified by DNR to perform iron and manganese analyses.</p>	<p>Install Dept. of Commerce approved water treatment device. Devices are listed under contaminants they will remove. Be sure the chosen treatment device is capable of removing the amount and type of iron you have in your water. Also make sure it is capable of removing any manganese present.</p>	<p>Yes, treatment devices must be installed by licensed plumbers; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See plumbing license laws.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>University of Wisconsin Extension</p> <p>National Ground Water Association</p> <p>Water Systems Council</p> <p>National Sanitation Foundation</p> <p>Water softeners will remove iron in some cases.</p>
				<p>Change the screen depth or well casing depth in your well (while maintaining the minimum casing depth required by code).</p>			

MY WATER APPEARS BROWN, CONTINUED

POSSIBLE PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE NEEDED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
<p>Tannins (chemicals released from decaying plants) Iron can sometimes be associated with tannins. See Iron in Drinking Water brochure.</p>	No	<p>Is your well shallow? Is your property located close to a swamp, bog, wetland, lake or river?</p> <p>Slowly run water into a bucket without aerating the water. If the water is brown as it leaves the faucet, then tannins are the likely problem.</p>	<p>Test your water for tannins. Use a laboratory certified by DNR to perform tannin analyses. Test for iron, too, if you are considering treatment as a solution.</p>	<p>Change the well casing pipe depth in your well to obtain water above or below the depth where tannins occur. Look at the geology in the area and talk to a licensed Well Driller or Pump Installer to discuss options.</p>	<p>Yes for drilled wells. Contact a licensed Well Driller for drilled wells.</p> <p>No for driven point wells, although licensed Pump Installers are the most qualified.</p>	No	<p>University of Wisconsin Extension</p> <p>National Ground Water Association</p> <p>Water Systems Council</p> <p>National Sanitation Foundation</p> <p>See Iron Bacteria brochure.</p>
				<p>Install Dept. of Commerce approved water treatment device. Devices are listed under contaminants they will remove.</p>	<p>Yes, treatment devices must be installed by licensed plumbers; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See plumbing license laws.</p>		