

MY WATER SMELLS LIKE SOLVENTS OR PAINT THINNER

POSSIBLE PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE REQUIRED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
Iron Bacteria See Iron Bacteria brochure	No, iron bacteria live off iron in the water. They are a nuisance, but not a threat to your health. There is no drinking water standard for iron bacteria.	Is there evidence of iron in your water; for example, red stains on plumbing fixtures or on laundry? Has there been a period of little or no water use? Does the problem fluctuate with water use?	Request a lab test for iron bacteria. Laboratories certified to test for coliform bacteria may also test for iron bacteria. Ask the lab.	Flush system and use more water	No	No	Iron in Drinking Water brochure UWSP-Well Water Quality Viewer Center for Watershed Science and Education, UW-Stevens Point United States Geological Survey National Ground Water Association Water Systems Council National Sanitation Foundation
				Periodic shock chlorination	No, but licensed Well Drillers or Pump Installers have the knowledge and equipment.	No	
				Well cleaning	No, but licensed Well Drillers or Pump Installers have the knowledge and equipment.	No	
				Continuous pellet chlorination	Licensed Pump Installers or well owners must install. DNR recommends that license holders install.	No	

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Volatile Organic Compounds or VOCs See VOC's in Drinking Water brochure.	Yes, if the contaminants exceed drinking water standards .	Is there a manufacturing facility or dry cleaning operation nearby? Does the problem stay constant even with fluctuations in water use?	Send a sample to a laboratory certified by DNR to test for VOCs . For the least cost, test for diesel range organics (DRO) or gasoline range organics (GRO) or the Safe Drinking Water VOC test. A full screen for VOCs is expensive.	Install a Dept. of Safety and Professional Services approved water treatment device. Devices are listed under contaminants they will remove.	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 . Be sure the device chosen is capable of removing the level of contaminant you have in your water.	Yes, if drinking water standards are exceeded; eligibility criteria are met and approval received first. See well replacement program.	United States Geological Survey National Ground Water Association Water Systems Council National Sanitation Foundation
				Deepen well casing or drill new well	Yes, licensed Well Drillers .		

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<p>Sulfates</p>	<p>Possibly. It can act as a laxative. See the Department of Health Services Fact Sheet on Sulfates.</p>	<p>Does the water have an astringent odor? Sulfates make the water acidic and more likely to cause corrosion of metal pipes.</p>	<p>Send a sample to a laboratory certified by DNR to perform sulfate analyses.</p>	<p>Install a Dept. of Safety and Professional Services 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> <p>Be sure the treatment device chosen is capable of removing the level of contaminant you have in your water.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>United States Geological Survey</p> <p>National Ground Water Association</p> <p>Water Systems Council</p> <p>National Sanitation Foundation</p> <p>Center for Watershed Science and Education, UW-Stevens Point</p>