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Water Analysis Cheat Sheet

While testing your water we put a lot of time and effort into explaining the results of the water test to make sure that you are making an educated decision.

But that is in not the case with most other companies. Misrepresentation and scare tactics are still widely used. This is the reason we put this cheat sheet together to help you spot “funny business”.

When you have your water tested by your local water treatment dealer you get industry jargon and numbers that are hard to understand and make sense of.

Refer to the list of tests below to find out what it is we are testing and what results should be.

pH	The measure of how acid or alkaline a solution is: 7.0 is neutral. pH values approaching zero indicate increasing acid strength, values approaching 14 indicate increasing alkaline strength. <u>Acceptable limits: 7.4 to 7.6 pH.</u>
Hardness (CaCO ₃)	Dissolved calcium and magnesium in water. Expressed in grains per gallon as calcium carbonate equivalent. Causes soap scum or curd, leaves rings, dulls hair, clogs fabric, and spots glassware. Most prevalent reason for scaling in pipes, kettles, heaters, and boilers, which reduces heat transfer and increases costly fuel consumption. <u>Acceptable limits: Zero grains of hardness for soft water.</u>
Iron (F+, F++)	Causes stains on fixtures, dishes, and laundry. Expressed in parts per million. Has disagreeable metallic taste that alters the flavor of beverages such as coffee and tea. Over 5% of the earth's crust is iron. In solution is susceptible to oxidation and when contacted by air, precipitates as a reddish-brown floc which causes discoloration. <u>Acceptable limits: Zero iron.</u>
Hydrogen Sulfide (H ₂ S)	Sulfur gas is the result of the decomposition of underground organic deposits. Imparts a characteristic “rotten egg” odor and is very corrosive both in water and air. It tarnishes silverware almost instantly. <u>Acceptable limits: Zero sulfur.</u>
Tannins (Humic Acids)	Expressed in units of color. Yellow or golden-brown color caused by harmless organics from peaty soil and decaying vegetation. Causes slight stains that are easily removed. <u>Acceptable limits: Zero color.</u>
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	T.D.S present in a water supply is a general indication of the over-all quality of the water. These include dissolved organics, including naturally occurring calcium and magnesium carbonates and other salts, iron, dissolved gases, heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, mercury, cyanide, and other minerals. <u>Acceptable limits: T.D.S. under 500 ppm.</u> <u>Perfect drinking water per EPA is TDS under 50 ppm.</u>