Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Testing Tap Water**

**(Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)**

**Please keep in mind:**

1. Only use dry hands when handling the test strip.
2. Do not touch or otherwise pollute the test strip.
3. Use tweezers to handle the test strip.

**How to use the test strip:**

1. Immerse the test strip for **2 seconds, then promptly remove**.
2. Do not shake off excess fluid.
3. Wait **15 seconds** to compare against the color chart and read results.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Test Parameter** | **What is this test?** | **Results** | **Observations** |
| Total hardness | Refers to the amount of magnesium and calcium found in the water.  |  |  |
| Free Chlorine | You will find some chlorine in most sterilized drinking water. The usual range is 0.2 to 1 mg/L. |  |  |
| Iron  | Iron is present in all water, but high levels can be fatal. Most drinking water has low levels of iron released from aquifers and wells.  |  |  |
| Mercury | Mercury is a heavy metal that can be found in the environment, including water sources. When present in drinking water, mercury can pose a health risk if consumed in high concentration over a long period. |  |  |
| Total Chlorine | This is found in water that has been disinfected by chlorine. Drinking water containing high levels of chlorine can cause rectal, colon, and bladder cancer. |  |  |
| Copper | This recommended safe level for drinking water is less than 1.3 mg/L. Anything above this is harmful to humans. |  |  |
| Lead | The release of lead is usually caused by corrosion of the pipe network and excess lead found in faucets as well. Excessive lead is harmful to the body and causes damage to the kidney, liver, and blood systems.  |  |  |
| Zinc | Zinc is an essential mineral for human health and is required in small amounts, excessive levels of zinc in drinking water can lead to adverse health effects.  |  |  |
| Manganese | In the United States, the EPA has set a secondary maximum contaminant level for manganese 0.05 mg/L. |  |  |
| QAC/QUAT | QUAT (Quaternary Ammonium Compounds) or QAC (Quaternary Ammonium Compounds) refers to a group of chemical compounds, they are widely used as disinfectants and preservatives due to their antimicrobial properties. |  |  |
| Fluoride | Water additive which promotes strong teeth. |  |  |
| Sodium Chloride | High levels of sodium in drinking water can be a concern for individuals on sodium restricted diets or those with certain health conditions such as hypertension (high blood pressure) or kidney problems. It is worth noting that the sodium levels in drinking water are generally much lower compared to the amount typically consumed through food.  |  |  |
| Hydrogen Sulfide | Hydrogen sulfide is not considered toxic at the concentrations typically found in drinking water. However, it can cause some short-term effects like nausea and diarrhea when consumed at high levels.  |  |  |
| Total alkalinity | This measures water’s ability to deal with hydrogen and acid ions. The base in water keeps the pH stable. If water is too alkaline, it will taste like soda water. This type of water will damage your water pipes and dry out your skin.  |  |  |
| Carbonate | Carbonate occurs naturally in the earth’s crust. Heath effects: Too much intake can lead to nausea, vomiting, or loss of appetite.  |  |  |
| pH | While there is not an official guidance for pH in drinking water. A high pH affects the taste of you water and low pH makes your water more corrosive. The sanatory Standards for Drinking Water indicate drinking water should have a pH of between 6.4 and 8.2 |  |  |

What conclusions can you make from your water testing sample: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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