

# Most frequent problems

## Rust & Stains

Black or orange stains are caused by the presence of iron or manganese in the water. Those problems are frequent.

## Unpleasant odours

Odour (rotten eggs) can be caused by the presence of hydrogen sulphide in the water. If there is no hydrogen sulfide in the water, there could be an organic contamination problem (microbial growth imbedded in a film of adhesive polymer, called a biofilm). These odors can signal the presence of harmful bacteria that alter the taste of water usually present in water containing iron and manganese bacteria.

## White Deposits

White deposits on dishes, plumbing and plumbing fixtures, are caused by a high level of calcium and magnesium in the water. It is what we call hard water.

## Presence of Bacteria

Even if your water is nice and clear, it can hide bacteria or micro-organisms that can be harmful to your health. It can cause diseases like diarrhea, gastro-enteritis etc.

## Sick Animals

If the water is not disinfected, it can contain harmful bacterias. It will weaken their metabolism and they will get sick. Many wells are contaminated by bacteria.

## Coloured Water

Minerals or organic compound suspended in the water are usually the cause of coloured water. These organic compounds, also known as tannin, give the water a yellowish tinge. This problem occurs frequently in lakes and municipal waters.

Reddish water with a metallic taste and a gelatinous consistency is often caused by iron particles. These frequently give rise to corrosion, considerably reducing the output of the water pumping system.

## Corrosion

While acid water results in the corrosion of pipes and sanitary units, colored water often indicates the presence of minerals or organic compounds suspended in the water.

## Salt Tast

Two factor can cause salty water: a softner not adjusted properly, that takes too much salt, or a big quantity of total dissolved solids (TDS) in the water.

## A drop in a well's production

It is often related to minerals or the presence of bacteria. The formation of a biofilm is also a concern. A film of adhesive biological coating can clog openings and an accumulation of gravel can quickly have an impact on production. Following an accurate diagnosis, virtually any well can be saved and its production restored. In some cases, the output can be greater than it originally was. However, this requires a proper identification of the problem, a stringent inspection of the water pumping system, and a mineralogical and microbiological analysis. These measures will help determine the real problem inside the well, making it possible to choose the most appropriate treatment.

These are but a few of the problems that can affect drinking water. Pesticides, herbicides, lead, arsenic, parasites, protozoa and other contaminants also threaten the quality of your water. Do you question the quality of your water? Then have it tested! Protect your health and your investment: your quality of life depends on it.

*Alice Caron*