

2023 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Information

Water System Name: Mushroom Farms WS (2701876)

Report Date: June 28, 2024

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: Groundwater

Name and General Location of Source(s): WELL 01 is the production/source well located on the east side of the main office building.

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: A Drinking Water Source Assessment was completed by Monterey County in April 2002. The assessment states, "The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants:

Known Contaminant Plumes

Underground storage tanks – Confirmed leaking tanks"

The assessment also discussed the water system's vulnerability: "The water system is in close proximity to the community of Los Lomas. Mushroom Farms operates an on site disposal system for the industrial wastewater effluent from the mushroom farm operation. The treatment facility consists of a 55,000 gallon settling pond located on the northeast end of the property. Wastewater from the settling pond is discharged to a 3 acre spray irrigation.

The water system has had nitrate results as high as 32 ppm in 2001." A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at:

Monterey County Health Department

1270 Natividad Road
Room 109
California, CA 93906

A summary of the assessment is available at Mushroom Farms. It should be noted that Mushroom Farms ceased spray irrigation activities at the end of 2012 and ceased mushroom growing operations on September 27, 2019. Therefore, possible contaminating activities and vulnerability rankings identified and discussed in the Drinking Water Source Assessment may change during future.

In general, although the nitrate levels are below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), all on-site drinking water is provided by bottled water. Water from WELL 01 is used for washing, not drinking.

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for Public Participation: This water system only provides water to employees of Mushroom Farms during normal business hours. Therefore, no regularly scheduled meetings are currently held. Signs are posted should employees need to be notified of water issues.

For More Information, Contact: Matt Fuller 831 274 5545.

About This Report

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023 and may include earlier monitoring data.

Importance of This Report Statement in Five Non-English Languages (Spanish, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Hmong)

Language in Spanish: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse a Matt Fuller a 415 Hall Road, Royal Oaks, CA 831 274 5545 para asistirlo en español.

Language in Mandarin: 这份报告含有关于您的饮用水的重要讯息。请用以下地址和电话联系 Matt Fuller 以获得中文的帮助: 415 Hall Road, Royal Oaks, CA/831-274 5545.

Language in Tagalog: Ang pag-uulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa inyong inuming tubig. Mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Mushroom Farms/415 Hall Road, Royal Oaks, CA o tumawag sa 831-274-5545 para matulungan sa wikang Tagalog.

Language in Vietnamese: Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Xin vui lòng liên hệ Matt Fuller tại 415 Hall Road, Royal Oaks, CA/831-274-5545 để được hỗ trợ giúp bằng tiếng Việt.

Language in Hmong: Tsaab ntawv no muaj cov ntsiab lus tseem ceeb txog koj cov dej haus. Thov hu rau Matt Fuller ntawm 415 Hall Road, Royal Oaks, CA/831-274-5545 rau kev pab hauv lus Askiv.

Terms Used in This Report

Term	Definition
Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an <i>E. coli</i> MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Term	Definition
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)	MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
Public Health Goal (PHG)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
Regulatory Action Level (AL)	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)	MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.
Treatment Technique (TT)	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Variances and Exemptions	Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.
ND	Not detectable at testing limit.
ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
ppq	parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants that May Be Present in Source Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

- Pesticides and herbicides, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Regulation of Drinking Water and Bottled Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

About Your Drinking Water Quality

Drinking Water Contaminants Detected

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 list all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Table 1. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Coliform Bacteria

Complete if bacteria are detected.

Microbiological Contaminants	Highest No. of Detections	No. of Months in Violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
<i>E. coli</i>	0	0	(a)	0	Human and animal fecal waste

(a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

Table 2. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Lead and Copper

Complete if lead or copper is detected in the last sample set.

Lead and Copper	Sample Date	No. of Samples Collected	90 th Percentile Level Detected	No. Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	9/5/2023	5	0.0017	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	9/5/2023	5	0.07	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Table 3. Sampling Results for Sodium and Hardness

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	2/15/23 & 8/17/23	44	43 – 45	None	None	Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring
Hardness (ppm)						Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring

Table 4. Detection of Contaminants with a Primary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chromium (ppb)	5/12/22	19		60	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	3/9/22, 5/26/22, & 8/24/22	0.20	0.19 – 0.21	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and pesticides.

Nitrate as NO ₃ (ppm)	2/15/23, 4/3/23, 8/17/23, & 10/3/23	7.6 – 29	21.9	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
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Radioactive Contaminants

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	12/21/16	0.337		50	(0)	Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta and photon emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Inorganic Contaminants

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppm)	5/12/22	<0.05		1	0.6	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Antimony (ppb)	5/12/22	<6		6	1	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic (ppb)	5/12/22	<2.0		10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Asbestos (MFL)	1/14/10	0		7	7	Internal corrosion of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits

Barium (ppm)	5/12/22	<0.1		1	2	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	5/12/22	<1.0		4	1	Discharge from metal refineries, coal-burning factories, and electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Cadmium (ppb)	5/12/22	<1.0		5	0.04	Internal corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from electroplating and industrial chemical factories, and metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (Total) (ppb)	5/12/22	19		50	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	9/5/23	0.0318	<0.05 – 0.059	(AL=1.3)	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Cyanide (ppb)	5/12/22	<1.0		150	150	Discharge from steel/metal, plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	3/9/22, 5/26/22, & 8/24/22	0.20	0.19 – 0.21	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	3/30/16 6/14/16 9/28/16 12/21/16	16	15-17	10	0.02	Discharge from electroplating factories, leather tanneries, wood preservation, chemical synthesis, refractory production, and

						textile manufacturing facilities; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	9/5/23	0.00082	<0.005 – 0.0018	(AL=15)	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrials manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Mercury (ppb)	5/12/22	<1.0		2	1.2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and cropland
Nickel (ppb)	5/12/22	<10		100	12	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal factories
Perchlorate (ppb)	5/12/22	<2.0		6	6	Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical used in solid rocket propellant, fireworks, explosives, flares, matches, and a variety of industries. It usually gets into drinking water as a result of environmental contamination from historic aerospace or other industrial operations that used or use, store, or dispose of perchlorate and its salts
Selenium (ppb)	5/12/22	<5.0		50	30	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)
Thallium (ppb)	5/12/22	<1.0		2	0.1	Leaching from ore-processing sites;

						discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides						
Contaminant (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDL]	Major Sources of Contamination
2,4-D (ppb)	2/15/23	<2.0		70	20	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops, range land, lawns, and aquatic weeds
Alachlor (ppb)	2/15/23	<0.24		2	4	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine (ppb)	2/15/23	<0.24		1	0.15	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops and along railroad and highway right-of-ways
Bentazon (ppb)	2/15/23	<2.0		18	200	Runoff/leaching from herbicide used on beans, peppers, corn, peanuts, rice, and ornamental grasses
Carbofuran (ppb)	2/15/23	<2.0		18	1.7	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa, and grape vineyards
Diquat (ppb)	2/15/23	<0.080		20	15	Runoff from herbicide use for terrestrial and aquatic weeds
Simazine (ppb)	2/15/23	<0.24		4	4	Herbicide runoff
1,2,3-Trichloropropane (ppb)	5/23/23	0.001		5	0.7	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; used as cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint, and varnish remover, and cleaning and degreasing agent; byproduct during the production of

						other compounds and pesticides
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
Contaminant (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Major Sources of Contamination
Benzene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		1	0.15	Discharge from plastics, dyes, and nylon factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon tetrachloride (ppt)	8/26/21	<0.500		500	100	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
1,2-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		600	600	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,4-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		5	6	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethane (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		5	3	Extraction and degreasing solvent; used in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, stone, clay, and glass products; fumigant
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppt)	8/26/21	<500		500	400	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		5	0.5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories; primary component of some fumigants
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		6	10	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		6	100	Discharge from industrial chemical factories; major biodegradation byproduct of TCE and PCE groundwater contamination
Dichloromethane (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		5	4	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical

						factories; insecticide
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		10	60	Discharge from industrial chemical factories; minor biodegradation byproduct of TCE and PCE groundwater contamination
1,3-Dichloropropene (ppt)	8/26/21	<500		500	200	Runoff/leaching from nematocide used on croplands
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		200	1000	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories; manufacture of food wrappings
Chlorobenzene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		70	70	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories and dry cleaning facilities
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		300	300	Discharge from petroleum refineries; industrial chemical factories
Methyl- <i>tert</i> -butyl ether (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		13	13	Leaking underground storage tanks; discharges from petroleum and chemical factories
Styrene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		100	0.5	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		1	0.1	Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; solvent used in production of TCE, pesticides, varnish and lacquers
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		5	0.06	Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser)

1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		5	5	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		5	0.3	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (TCE) (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		5	1.7	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Toluene (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		150	150	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; underground gas tank leaks
Trichlorofluoromethane (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		150	1300	Discharge from industrial factories; degreasing solvent; propellant and refrigerant
Trichlorotrifluoroethane (FREON 113) (ppb)	8/26/21	<0.500		150	1300	Discharge from industrial factories; degreasing solvent; propellant and refrigerant
Vinyl chloride (ppt)	8/26/21	<500		500	50	Leaching from PVC piping; discharge from plastic factories; biodegradation byproduct of TCE and PCE groundwater contamination
Xylenes (ppm)	8/26/21	<0.0005		1.750	1.8	Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; fuel solvent.

Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfectant Residuals, and Disinfection Byproduct Precursors

Contaminant (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Major Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly	1.25	0.44 – 2.08	[MRDL = 4.0 (as Cl ₂)]	[MRDLG = 4 (as Cl ₂)]	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	9/5/23	7.5		80	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Sum of 5 Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	9/5/23	3.0		60	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Major Sources of Contamination
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	9/5/23	0.77		N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (ppb)	9/5/23	4.2		N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	9/5/23	<0.500		N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	9/5/23	2.5		N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Dichloroacetic acid (ppb)	9/5/2023	0.32		N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Monobromoacetic Acid (ppb)	9/5/2023	<1.0		N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	9/5/2023	0.39		N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	9/5/2023	<1.30		N/A	N/A	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Table 5. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2/15/23 & 8/17/23	304	230 - 378	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits.
Foaming Agents (MBAS) (ppb)	2/6/13	<0.025		500	N/A	Municipal and industrial waste discharges.
Chloride (ppm)	2/15/23 & 8/17/23	93	90 - 96	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2/15/23 & 8/17/23	16	16	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Specific Conductivity (µS/cm)	6/18/19	664		1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence.

Table 6. Detection of Unregulated Contaminants

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level	Health Effects
Boron (ppm)	3/9/22 & 8/26/22	0.029	0.028 – 0.029	1 ppm	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing boron in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals.
Ethyl tert-butyl ether (ETBE) (ppb)	11/28/17	<0.50		N/A	N/A
tert-Butyl alcohol (TBA) (ppb)	11/28/17	<2.0		12 ppb	Some people who use water containing tert-Butyl alcohol in excess of the notification level over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer, based on studies in laboratory animals.
tert-Amyl Methyl Ether (TAME) (ppb)	11/28/17	<0.50		N/A	N/A

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead-Specific Language: *If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. **Mushroom Farms** is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. [Optional: If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.] If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you*

can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Special Language for Nitrate: *Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.*