

Additional Tests for Nuisance Waters

Water Problem	Suggested Test
Deposits in pipes or pitting of pipes -deposits or pitting	-Langlier saturation index -pH -metals (cadmium, copper, lead, zinc)
Off-color water -cloudy -black -red -brown or yellow	-turbidity -hydrogen sulfide (no test needed if odor), manganese -iron -iron, humic and tannic compounds (for lakes)
Reddish brown slime or gelatinous discharge from the tap -iron bacteria	-no test required
Stained fixtures and clothes -red or brown -black -green or blue	-iron -manganese -copper, Langlier saturation index
Unusal taste or odor -rotten egg -metallic -salty -septic, musty, or earthy -alkaline -gasoline or oil -soapy -phenol (chemical) odor	-hydrogen sulfide (no test required) -pH, Langlier saturation index, metals (cadmium, copper, iron, lead, zinc) -total dissolved solids, chloride -total coliform bacteria, methane -pH, total dissolved solids -hydrocarbon scan -surfactants -volatile organic scan

** Summarized from "Private Drinking Water Supplies: Quality, Testing, and Options for Problem Waters." 1991. Northeast Agricultural Engineering Service Cooperative Extension.*



Cornell University
 Cooperative Extension
 of Onondaga County

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County
 220 Herald Place, 2nd Floor
 Syracuse, New York 13202
 (315) 424-9485
 Web: www.cce.cornell.edu/onondaga