

References for Manganese/Iron in drinking water causing bacterial/mold growth on pipes, faucets, sinks and fixtures. Possible health effects of manganese.

Is manganese safe in drinking water?

Manganese is classified as a Secondary Drinking Water Contaminant and, because of this, has no regulated level. It does have a secondary standard of 0.05 mg/L but this is not enforced. Secondary Drinking Water Contaminants are classified as contaminants that cause aesthetic issues but are not generally seen as a risk to one's health. From EPA

<https://www.epa.gov/wqc/drinking-water-criteria-document-manganese>

ATSDR-Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease registry: public health statement for Manganese.

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/PHS/PHS.asp?id=100&tid=23>

John Mayo, SGWASA customer in Butner, email of 5-11-18 below: Sent to many interested in manganese levels reported in SGWASA water.

Those who have followed my efforts from the beginning, will recall one of my original concerns was the excessive amount of manganese in SGWASA water. That was what led me to petition the ATSDR, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, who confirmed the fact that: (in quotes below):”

“The amount of manganese in the SGWASA is below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Life-Time Health Advisory of 300 parts per billion or micrograms per liter. Hence, it is unlikely that any manganese-related adverse health effect would occur as a result of drinking SGWASA water. The amount of manganese in the SGWASA drinking water could result in staining of clothes and fixtures, poor water quality (e.g. color, taste) and impact the quality of life of people who use the drinking water.”

A problem that frequently results from iron or manganese in water is *iron or manganese bacteria*. These nonpathogenic (not health threatening) bacteria occur in soil, shallow aquifers and some surface waters. The bacteria feed on iron and manganese in water. These bacteria form red-brown (iron) or black-brown (manganese) slime in toilet tanks and can clog water systems. If you are having problems with iron, manganese, and/or occasional sulfur odors we typically recommend water testing (Multiple Options). Some case studies related to iron and manganese problems.

<http://www.water-research.net/index.php/manganese>