



**HOW TO DETERMINE QUALITY  
AND SAFETY OF THE  
DRINKING WATER AT YOUR  
HOME?**

## HOW TO DETERMINE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF THE DRINKING WATER AT YOUR HOME?

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Clean and safe drinking water must be clear, colorless, free of foreign odors and impurities and should not have any sediment. The following are the ways to examine these main qualities at your home:

# CLARITY

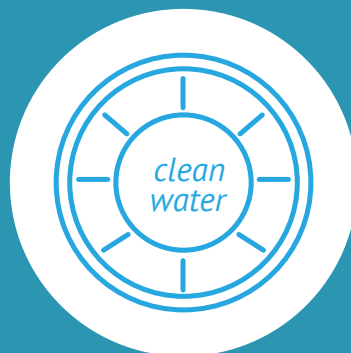


To determine the clarity level of the water, pour 20 ml. of your tap water into a transparent glass.



Then take any paper with a text on it and try to read it through the glass with water.

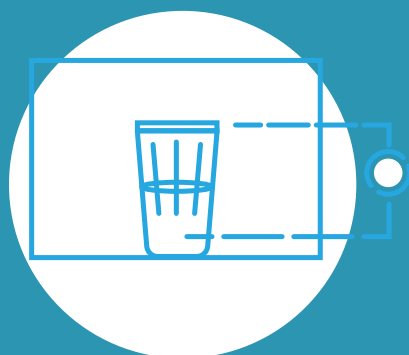
Is it possible to read? It means the water is clean. If not, then your water contains impurities and high level of turbidity stimulates the growth of bacteria.



# COLORITY



Water colority is measured the same way: pour 100 ml of water into a transparent glass and examine it against the white paper background.



Organic substances, decomposing in the water, make it look darker. If the water is clean, your paper will look the same white.

# SMELL



The easiest way to measure is to pour water into a plate, so evaporation area is larger. You will quickly catch it if there is an extraneous smell in the water.



If you found the smell of the water suspicious and unpleasant at the least, most likely this water is not of a good quality.

If you still have doubts, heat the water to 20 degrees and feel the smell again. The next step is to heat it up to 60 degrees. In all three cases the water should remain odorless. The rotten smell of the water indicates that it contains hydrogen sulphide in it.



# SEDIMENT



Clean water should not contain any sediment. It is easy to check - pour the water into a 2 or 3 litre glass jar, close it with a lid and leave it for 2-3 days. Better leave it in a dark place, do not shake it and do not add anything to it.



After this period of time, if you notice any sediment or plaque or if the water is covered with film or changed its color, avoid using your water in the food, as it contains substances that are often harmful for your health.

If you notice a green coating on the walls of your jar, this is a direct indication that the water contains simple algae; if a sediment appeared on the bottom of the jar, it tells about presence of organic substances in the liquid and; an oil film on the surface indicates with no mistakes that your water contains foreign chemical compounds.



# TASTE



Good quality water should be a little sweet and necessarily pleasant to taste. If your water tastes slightly bitter, it seems salty or sour, then it should not be used in the food until it is thoroughly checked, desirably in the laboratory conditions. Of course, we have different taste preferences, however, very often a little sweet water is healthy and the salty one is harmful.

To check the taste of the water, boil some of it in a clean container for 5 min, then cool to 20 ° -25 ° C. If the water tastes too sweet, it contains gypsum; if it's bitter, it has magnesium salts; if it's tart, it contains salts of iron. The rotten taste of the water tells about the presence of decomposed plants or animal organisms in it.



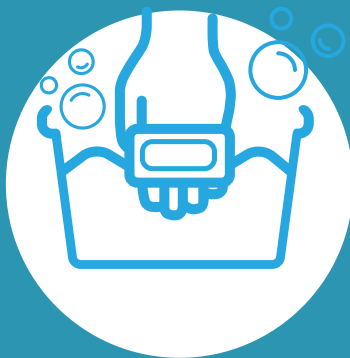
# HARDNESS

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The terms of 'hard' and 'soft' water emerged historically and were used by housewives washing clothes. The clothing and linen washed with soap or laundry detergent in the hard water became stiff to touch, compared to the ones washed in the soft water.

At home conditions it is possible to determine the harshness of water by foaming. If the soap does not foam well in the water - the water is hard. Soft water is considered to be healthier for your body.



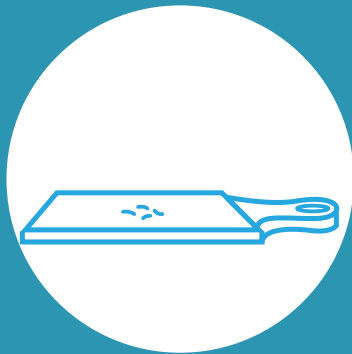
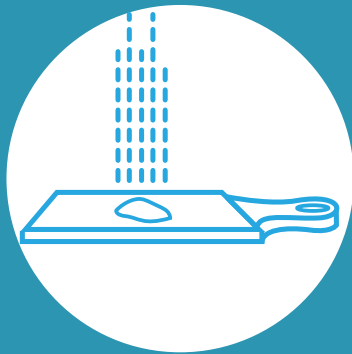
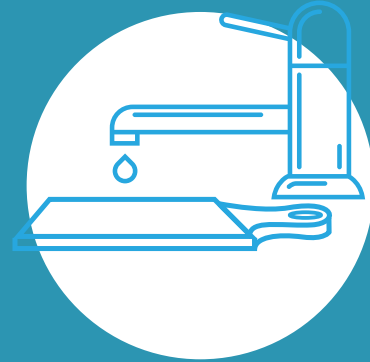


There are other common ways of testing water for cleanliness and safety. Here are some of them:

## TEST WITH A GLASS



Drip some water on a clean glass or mirror and wait for the water to evaporate.



After drying, the clean water should not leave any traces on the glass surface. The water of doubtful purity will leave some stains on the surface.

# BOILING

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Open your kettle for boiling water - the presence of deposit on the bottom of the kettle and its content will tell you a lot about your water.

If the deposition is of red color, it tells that your water contains hardening salts, calcium, magnesium and iron. Dark-gray color deposition indicates a surplus of iron oxides and; the yellow color deposition leads to the conclusion that there are large amounts of calcium salts and various oxides in this water.





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**If at least one of these tests performed negative results, it does not yet mean that the water in your home is of bad quality. This means that you have a reason to contact the related authorities for a more thorough and professional examination of your water.**

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## 2017

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## September

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## December

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Dushanbe,  
2017