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Bacteriological Water Testing Package - \$275

Total Coliform / **e-coli** – This is the most common test for contamination. Coliform bacteria should not be found in drinking water. When present it indicates that the water supply has some connection with an unsanitary source. Septic waste and contaminated drinking water are common. Drinking contaminated water may have effects ranging from cramping and gastrointestinal illness to liver failure.

Standard Plate Count – The standard plate count, or heterotrophic plate count, is a measurement of all of the heterotrophic bacteria in water. The bacteria may be harmful or not harmful. Heterotrophic bacteria are one cause of strep throat. Bacteria can cause disease by destroying cells, releasing toxins, contaminating food, or by the reaction of the body to the infecting bacteria. A high number of bacteriological colonies may also indicate other problems with the water source.

Iron Bacteria – Iron bacteria is not particularly harmful to humans in low quantities, but they can be incredible nuisances. Iron Bacteria metabolize iron in the water and may deposit an orange or brown slime in the water distribution system. Iron bacteria can cause bad odor, taste, color, turbidity, and frothing and may clog a well in a matter of only a couple of months.

Sulfur Bacteria – Sulfur bacteria, like iron bacteria, produces slime and may cause bad odor, taste, color, turbidity, and frothing and may clog a well over time. A "rotten egg" odor, produced by hydrogen sulfide gas, is an indicator of a sulfur environment. Sulfate-reducing bacteria may produce hydrogen sulfide and sulfuric acid, which corrodes well casings, hot water tanks, and metal and concrete pipes.

Pseudomonas – These bacteria are common inhabitants of soil and water. They occur on surfaces of plants and occasionally on the surfaces of animals. *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* is a pathogen that causes urinary tract infections, respiratory infections, dermatitis, bacteremia, bone and joint infections, gastrointestinal infections, and a variety of systemic infections.

Enterococi – These bacteria are common inhabitants of gut communities of mammals and birds. They are opportunistic pathogens that cause millions of infections annually. Enterococcus testing is used as an indicator test for pathogen contamination and has found to have a high correlation to swimmer illness in recreational water. Some strains of Ent have been found to be responsible for urinary tract infections, endocarditis, bacteremia, neonatal infections, central nervous system (CNS) infections, and abdominal and pelvic infections.