



5 Things You Need To Know About Your Drinking Water

1. Where does my water come from?

Public drinking water system vs. well: Do you (or your landlord) pay for the water coming from your tap? If so, you are probably served by a public drinking water system. If not, you are likely connected to a private domestic well.

2. What's in my water?

Visit the US EPA website (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/index.cfm>) to find your water system and look up its annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). If it is not available on the site, call the number for your local water provider listed on your water bill and ask for a copy of the CCR. If you are on a private well, you will have to get your water tested. See our "What if I have a private well?" guide on our website for more information.

3. Is my water safe?

Read your CCR or water test report and for each chemical listed, compare the level detected in your water with the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and Public Health Goal (PHG). If a the level of a contaminant in your water is greater than the MCL or PHG, then your water contains an unsafe amount of that chemical. For more detailed information, see our "Is my water safe?" guide on our website.

4. What can I do NOW to have safe water?

Find a short-term alternative water source such as bottled water or an in-home filter. Boiling water may kill things like bacteria or pathogens, but concentrates other contaminants like nitrate and arsenic, making those problems worse.

5. How can I work towards a long-term solution?

Find out why your water is not safe and make sure your water system is working to secure a long-term solution. You have a right to safe water and should not have to pay for supplemental drinking water or be expose to unsafe contaminants.



The guides listed here can be found at: http://www.communitywatercenter.org/resources_for_communities

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