Required Testing to Determine Water Potability

Imperial County requires that building permit applicants demonstrate that their domestic water supplies are potable. The Imperial County Environmental Health Division reviews water testing results to verify potable quality. Please note that this information does not apply to Public Water Systems.

The following requirements pertain to the sampling and testing of private water systems, and the reporting of the laboratory test results.

- <u>Sampling Point:</u> Sampling must be done from a tap inside the dwelling/structure, and the sample must be representative of the water being supplied.   For surface water, the point of entry (POE) water treatment system must be installed and operating prior to collecting the water sample.

- <u>Qualified Sampler:</u> Sampling must be conducted by a California-Certified Laboratory or by a qualified person as determined by the Division based on California certification or specialized training or experience.

- <u>California-Certified Laboratory:</u> The sample must be tested by and reported by a laboratory certified by the State of California as being qualified to perform each type of test required. As a matter of convenience, there are two local laboratories that provide both sampling and testing services: Babcock Laboratories (760-545-2002) and the Imperial County Public Health Department Laboratory (442-265-1427).

- <u>Reporting:</u> The test results must be submitted directly to this Division under original signature certifying who delivered the sample(s) to the laboratory for testing and the status of California certification of the laboratory for the specific tests conducted. If the laboratory collected the sample, this must be indicated. If the sampling was performed by someone other than the laboratory, an originally signed statement by the sampler must certify that he or she is California certified or otherwise qualified to conduct the sampling. All sample results must be accompanied by a potable water test results submittal form identifying the location of the sampling site (i.e. site address and sample location), date of sampling, water system treatment information, name of laboratory, and the person who performed the sampling.

NOTE: *Bulk hauled water does not provide a reliable supply of potable running water to plumbing fixtures in a manner consistent with the protection of public health and safety. Use of water transported by a California Licensed Bulk Water Hauler may only be utilized for temporary projects, recreational vehicles, or as a supplemental supply of drinking water as approved by the Division.*

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REQUIRED TESTS OF <u>GROUNDWATER</u> OR <u>SURFACE WATER</u> WITH ON-SITE TREATMENT

TYPE OF TEST	CONSTITUENT	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)
Microbiology	Total Coliforms	Absent
General Physical	Turbidity	1 NTU
	Color	15 units
	Odor	3 units
General Minerals	Bicarbonate	No Existing MCL
	Carbonate	No Existing MCL
	Hydroxide Alkalinity	No Existing MCL
	Calcium	No Existing MCL
	Chloride	500 mg/L
	Copper	1.0 mg/L
	Foaming Agents	0.5 mg/L
	Iron	0.3 mg/L
	Magnesium	No Existing MCL
	Manganese	0.05 mg/l
	pH	6.5-8.5
	Sodium	No Existing MCL
	Sulfate	250 mg/L
	Specific Conductance	900 µS/cm
	Total Dissolved Solids	1,000 mg/L
	Total Hardness	No Existing MCL
	Zinc	5.0 mg/L
Inorganic Chemicals	Aluminum	1.0 mg/L
	Arsenic	0.010 mg/L
	Barium	1.0 mg/L
	Cadmium	0.005 mg/L
	Chromium	0.05 mg/L
	Lead	0.015 mg/L
	Mercury	0.002 mg/L
	Nitrate (as NO_3)	45 mg/L
	Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	1.0 mg/L
	Selenium	0.05 mg/L
	Silver	0.1 mg/L
	Fluoride	2.0 mg/L
Organic Chemicals	Not normally required. (Please consult with the Environmental Health Division regarding surrounding activities that may result in potential sources of organic contamination of the water supply.)	
Radionuclides (Groundwater Only)	Gross Alpha	15 pCi/L
	If 5 pCi/L is exceeded for Gross Alpha, additional testing for radium-226 and/or radium-228 may be required.	