

STAINS

Do you have problems with stains in laundry and on bathtubs, showers, or sink surfaces? This could be due to excessive levels of iron or manganese in your water.

Iron levels above 0.3 ppm may cause reddish brown stains on bathroom, kitchen, and laundry equipment. If the levels of iron are high enough, iron bacteria may also be present. This type of bacteria uses the iron as an energy source and will grow into a slimy mass which can cause staining, and gives water a bad taste and odor. A separate test for iron bacteria must be performed to verify its presence.

Stains caused by manganese are usually black or gray and can occur if manganese levels exceed 0.05 ppm. These stains are usually most evident on porcelain and are very difficult to remove. High manganese levels may also cause tea or coffee to taste bad.

Performing a domestic suitability test on your water will determine the levels of iron and manganese in your water.

Source: Water Quality Handbook KSU