

Untitled Document

Many people have their borehole water tested and get a test certificate with figures on it that mean nothing.

Nici Jooste

When you buy a property that makes use of borehole water, financial institutions require the seller to provide a test certificate.

In reality there is no such thing in nature as pure water. Nearly all water contains contaminants, even rainwater.

An example of natural water contamination is the mineral fluorospar that occurs in rock and soil in many areas.

Pesticide residue and industrial pollution in drinking water is a constant problem. Many dissolved minerals are also present. Water quality refers to chemical, physical, biological and radiological characteristics of water. It is a complex subject.



The SABS standard SANS 241 is a document that outlines the quality of acceptable drinking water.

The testing laboratory will advise you on several analytical tests that will reveal the severity of specific

Low pH (a measure of how acidic the water is) can lead to corrosion of plumbing and water supply

High nitrate levels usually indicate contamination by drainage and can convey other harmful pollutants

Electrical conductivity and total dissolved solids are tested to establish the approximate mineral salt

Chloride and sulphate both occur in hot dry areas and can cause nausea and vomiting at very high

Less frequently found are elements such as cadmium and copper. Copper has an effect on the colour

Substances tested that occur more commonly in water and may have aesthetic or financial concerns

Manganese is the common reason for brown discolouration in sinks and basins. Iron, sodium, potassium