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September

NEWS SPLASH

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Water™

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What is pH in Water? Article from Culligan.com

When you measure the pH level of a substance like tap water, you're determining how *acidic* or *basic* the water is. This level is based on the amount of hydrogen and hydroxyl ions in the substance. More hydrogen has a low pH level and is considered acidic, while more hydroxyl causes a high pH and is called basic or alkaline.

pH Levels in Tap Water

The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14. Substances that are neither acidic nor basic, like pure water, are neutral and have a pH level of 7.

What Is High pH in Water?

Water with a high pH level (above 7) is basic or alkaline. Although experts say alkaline water isn't necessarily better for you, some people still prefer it and use alkaline water filters to control pH levels. You might guess a natural area has seriously high pH levels if it also has these things:

- Dairy or coal pile runoff
- Draining from naturally inundated wetlands or floodplains
- Liquid industrial waste
- Power plants

Most of the time, the things impacting your drinking water pH are much more commonplace — such as rocks and natural minerals.

What is Low pH in Water?

If water has a pH level below 7, it's considered acidic. You might be able to guess that a particular body of water has highly acidic water if these things are nearby:

- Industrial landfills
- Cement or soap manufacturing
- Limestone gravel roads or agricultural lime
- Pine or fir forests

Particularly low levels can cause metals to leach from your home plumbing and get into your water.

What is Ideal pH in Water?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends a pH value between 6.5 and 9 for drinking water.

pH Water Testing

- Acidic water might cause a metallic, sour taste and blue-green household stains.
- Alkaline water could make beverages bitter and might lead to scale buildup.

This measurement can potentially indicate other issues. On top of that, pH also impacts chemical and biological processes in water and can interact with any other contaminants that may be present.* Have a water expert tell you everything you need to know about pH. You'll also learn about water hardness, chlorine, iron and other potential issues. It all begins with a free, in-home water test and consultation. Schedule yours today.

*Contaminants may not be present in your water.

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