

wellcare[®] information for you about:

Barium & Groundwater

What is Barium?

Barium is a silvery-white metal which exists in nature in ores containing mixtures of elements. These ores are most commonly found in AK, AR, CA, GA, KY, MO, NV and TN. Barium combines with other chemicals such as sulfur or carbon and oxygen to form barium compounds.

Barium is used in making a wide variety of electronic components, in metal alloys, bleaches, dyes, fireworks, ceramics and glass. Barium is also used by the oil and gas industries to make drilling mud that may be released directly into the ground.

Barium sulfate is sometimes used by doctors to perform medical tests and take x-rays of the gastrointestinal tract.

What are the health effects of Barium in drinking water?

The EPA sets a maximum limit for barium in public drinking water supplies to 2 parts per million (ppm). When people are exposed to barium for short periods at levels above the maximum contaminant level, they may experience gastrointestinal disturbances and muscular weakness.

Barium has the potential to cause high blood pressure when exposed to levels above the maximum contaminant level for long periods of time.

How do I test for Barium?

If you are concerned about barium in your water supply, contact your local or state health department for a list of state certified laboratories that can perform barium testing. Or, you can call the FREE wellcare[®] Hotline at 888-395-1033 for help in finding a testing lab.

What are the treatments for Barium in drinking water?

Barium can be removed from drinking water through the following treatment methods: ion exchange, reverse osmosis, lime softening, and electro dialysis.

Water should be tested before and after installation of the treatment device and annually thereafter to confirm its effectiveness.

For more information about Barium & Groundwater

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. ToxFAQs™ for Barium.
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=326&tid=57>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Barium in Drinking Water.
http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/basicinformation_barium.cfm

For more information about wells and other wellcare® publications



wellcare® is a program of the **Water Systems Council (WSC)**. **WSC** is the only national organization solely focused on protecting the health and water supply of the 43 million people nationwide who depend on wells for their water supply.

This publication is one of more than 80 wellcare® information sheets that can be downloaded for FREE from the WSC website at www.watersystemscouncil.org.

Well owners and others with questions about wells or groundwater can also contact the FREE wellcare® Hotline at 1-888-395-1033 or visit www.wellcarehotline.org.

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The advertisement features a central graphic with a golden faucet pouring water into a globe. To the right is a photograph of a man, a young child, and a woman, each holding a glass of water. Below the globe, the text "Well Owners Network" is displayed in large, bold letters. A horizontal splash of water separates the main text from the footer. The footer contains the Water Systems Council logo, a small descriptive paragraph, and contact information.

join the **wellcare**®

Well Owners Network

If you have a private water well, learn more about how you can ensure it will provide safe drinking water for years to come.

Join the network today!
Call **1-888-395-1033** or visit **www.watersystemscouncil.org**
IT'S FREE!

WATER SYSTEMS COUNCIL

WSC is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the wider use of wells as modern and affordable safe drinking water systems and to protecting groundwater resources nationwide. It is the only national organization focused solely on individual water wells and other private well-based water systems.