

POTABLE WATER AND WELL WATER QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

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An approved source of potable water is required for all home kitchen operations. No further action is necessary if the water is provided by a regulated water district or small water system where water quality analysis is performed on a routine basis to ensure the water supply meets minimum bacterial and chemical standards.



A Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) owner/operator using a private water well is responsible for making sure that the well water is safe to drink. MEHKO applicants will need to submit **testing results for nitrate, nitrite, and bacteriological water quality** as part of the initial application submission verifying that the water supply meets at minimum a Transient Non-Community Water System (TNCWS) standard, as defined in **California Health and Safety Code section 116275(o)**.

Approved MEHKO operators shall complete water quality testing and have test results available during routine inspections or complaint investigations. The frequency of water quality testing shall comply with the **TNCWS** requirements and include:

1. Quarterly bacteriological testing

2. Annual Nitrate testing:

For 1 year quarterly tests are required if the results are greater than or equal to 50 percent of the Maximum Contaminant level (MCL).

After 1 year, if the test results are less than 50 percent of the MCL, testing will be completed annually.

3. Nitrite testing:

For 1 year quarterly tests are required if the results are greater than or equal to 50 percent of the MCL.

After 1 year, if the results are less than 50 percent of the MCL, testing will occur every 3 years.

Inorganic Chemicals	Maximum Contaminant Level, mg/L
Nitrate (as nitrogen)	10.0
Nitrite (as nitrogen)	1.0

Bacteriological Water Quality
Water is to be free from total coliform bacteria.

Contact the **Homebased Food Operations Program** at (626) 430-9855 regarding application or inspection requirements.

Contact the **Drinking Water Program** at (626) 430-5420 for potable water and well water quality issues.

