

# “Rainfall to Tap”

## Lesson #2 - Glossary



**Bottled Water:** Drinking water (often spring water) that is put into bottles and offered for sale.

**Chlorine:** A nonmetallic element that is found alone as a heavy greenish yellow irritating gas having two atoms per molecule and a strong odor and that is used especially as a bleach, oxidizing agent, and disinfectant in water purification.

**Coli form Bacteria:** A commonly used bacterial indicator of sanitary quality of foods and water. Coli forms are universally present in large numbers in the feces of warm-blooded animals. While coli forms themselves are not normally causes of serious illness, they are easy to culture and their presence is used to indicate that other pathogenic organisms of fecal origin may be present.

**Consumer Confidence Report:** EPA requires public water suppliers to provide consumer confidence reports (CCR) to their customers. These reports are also known as annual water quality reports or drinking water quality reports. They summarize information regarding water sources, any detected contaminants, compliance and educational information.

**Dose:** The quantity of something that may be eaten by or administered to an organism, or that an organism may be exposed to.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** An agency of the U. S. Federal Government which was created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress.

**E-Coli Bacteria:** *Escherichia coli* are commonly found in the lower intestine of warm blooded organisms. Most *E. coli* strains are harmless, but some can cause contamination of food and water. The harmless strains are part of the normal flora of the gut and can benefit their hosts by producing vitamin K and by preventing the establishment of pathogenic bacteria within the intestine.

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA):** The **Food and Drug Administration (FDA or USFDA)** is an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The FDA is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety, tobacco products, dietary supplements, and medications.

**Hydrogen Sulfide:** The chemical compound, H<sub>2</sub>S. It is a colorless gas with the characteristic foul odor of rotten eggs; Hydrogen sulfide often results from the bacterial breakdown of organic matter in the absence of oxygen such as in swamps and sewers. H<sub>2</sub>S also occurs in some well water.

**Iron:** An element and metal with the symbol **Fe**. It is the fourth most common element contained in rocks in the Earth's crust.

**Manganese:** An element and metal designated by the symbol **Mn**. It is found in rocks and gravel, often in combination with iron.

**MCL:** Maximum Contamination Level.

**Minerals:** A naturally occurring, inorganic, solid substance with an ordered internal structure and a definite chemical composition.

**Potable drinking water:** Drinking water that is safe enough to be consumed by humans and meets drinking water standards. Typical uses (for other than drinking) include toilet flushing, washing and landscape irrigation.

**Tap Water:** Potable drinking water supplied to a tap (valve) inside the household or workplace. It is a principal component of indoor plumbing which became available during the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Concentration:** The term concentration can be applied to any kind of chemical mixture, but most frequently it refers to solutes and solvents in solution; the abundance of a constituent divided by the total volume of a mixture.