City of Denmark Drinking Water
Iron & Manganese

Who regulates drinking water in South Carolina? The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) regulates public drinking water systems in South Carolina.

Is water safe for drinking, bathing, and cooking? Yes, based on the City's drinking water being in compliance with the primary drinking water standards in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act.

What is the water routinely sampled for? The system is routinely sampled for bacteria, metals, chemicals, chlorine residuals, and radiological constituents.

Denmark Public Water System (See Map)

- The City of Denmark Public Water System is served by three groundwater wells.
- HaloSan was intermittently used in a fourth well, the Cox Mill Well, to control iron bacteria. This well was taken offline in August 2018 and remains offline.
- Water from the three wells continues to be disinfected for bacteria using chlorine.

For more information, go to www.scdhec.gov/denmark.

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EPA has established National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations that set non-mandatory water quality standards for 15 contaminants, including iron and manganese. Contaminants can be naturally-occurring or man-made chemicals found in the environment. If these contaminants are present in water at levels greater than these standards, they may cause the water to appear cloudy or rust-colored, or to taste or smell bad even though the water is actually safe to drink.

While the discoloration caused by iron and manganese is not a health concern, it is not desirable. Iron and manganese are not routinely monitored in drinking water systems. Iron and manganese may come from source water and/or pipes in a system or building.

EPA has established guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for taste, color, and odor. DHEC has made specific recommendations to the City that have improved the levels of iron and manganese found in the water.
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The sampling data graphed below support the citizens' observations and complaints about discolored water in the earlier years of the record. To reduce the occurrences of discolored water, DHEC requires routine flushing of the water system by the City.

The raw and treated water from the Denmark wells was tested during the special study in 2018 for iron and manganese. Neither of the secondary standards (iron - 0.3 mg/L; manganese - 0.05 mg/L) were exceeded.