

## FACTS ABOUT DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION

Did you know that...

- The water you drink is a combination of surface water and groundwater.
- The United States has one of the safest water supplies in the world, but drinking
- water quality can vary from place to place. It depends on the condition of the source water and the treatment it receives.
- Treatment may include adding fluoride to prevent cavities and chlorine to kill germs.
- If you have your own well, you are responsible for making sure that your water is safe to drink.
- Private wells should be tested annually for nitrate and coliform bacteria to detect
- contamination problems early
- Microbial contaminants (such as bacteria and viruses) are of special concern because they may cause immediate, or acute, reactions, such as vomiting or diarrhea.
- Long-term exposure to some contaminants (such as pesticides, minerals, and solvents) at levels above standards may cause gastrointestinal problems, skin irritations, cancer, reproductive and developmental problems, and other chronic health effects
- Children, especially infants, drink more fluid per pound of body weight than adults.
- Very young children's immune systems are not yet fully developed, making them less able than healthy adults to fight microbes in drinking water.
- These microbes may induce diarrhea and vomiting, which may cause children to become dehydrated more quickly than adults.
- Children may also be more susceptible to chemical contaminants that affect learning, motor skills, and sex hormones during important stages of growth.

*Let the experts at Mid-Atlantic laboratories help you find out if you have a Drinking Water problem*

