America has a serious problem with nitrate contamination of drinking water—and it is most severe in small communities that can least afford to fix it.

### Nitrate Contamination in U.S. Drinking Water Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Cost per Person per Year</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ION EXCHANGE SYSTEM</td>
<td>$666</td>
<td>For very small communities, a system could cost as much as $666 per person-per-year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVERSE OSMOSIS</td>
<td>$2,776</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nitrate Pollution

- 44 million Americans are estimated to get their drinking water from private wells.
- NO ONE KNOWS HOW MUCH NITRATE IS IN THESE WELLS, but recent data showed that 22% of the private wells tested in Iowa had nitrate levels of 5 ppm or more.

### Nitrate Risk

- The amount of nitrate in water at which risk of cancer increases, according to the National Cancer Institute.
- 68% of the communities whose drinking water systems have nitrate above 5 ppm and no nitrate treatment are located in just 10 states.

### Nitrate Treatment

- There are two common ways to treat water contaminated with nitrate. Both are costly—especially for small communities with a small tax base and, often, a low average income.
- For very small communities, a system could cost as much as $2,776 per person-per-year.

### Nitrate Solution

- Nitrate pollution is not only a problem for community water systems. Those who rely on private wells for drinking water may also be affected.