

SANS 1657 Bottled Water Testing

Professional testing for bottled, purified, refill and packaged drinking water producers in South Africa.

[Request a Quote](#)

[Book Water Sampling](#)

SANAS-accredited laboratory testing. Suitable for bottled and refill water. Production and retail monitoring. H₂OGuru Clarity Report included.

Protect Your Product, Brand and Customers

The SANS 1657 Bottled Water Testing package is designed for businesses that produce, bottle, refill, package, distribute or sell drinking water. It provides a structured assessment of the microbiological, chemical and physical quality of the finished product and helps identify risks that may affect consumer safety, product consistency and brand reputation.

Bottled water can become contaminated at several points in the production process. The source water may already contain unwanted minerals, salts, metals or microorganisms. Contamination may also be introduced through tanks, pipework, filters, reverse osmosis membranes, filling equipment, bottle washing, caps, handling practices or poor hygiene controls.

Clear packaging and good taste do not confirm that a bottled water product is compliant. Laboratory testing is required to assess the water against the applicable bottled water requirements and to confirm whether the treatment and production process is operating effectively.

H₂OGuru supports clients from sample collection to result interpretation. The service can be used for new bottling operations, routine compliance monitoring, product verification, retail investigations, treatment-system checks and corrective-action follow-up.

Package at a Glance

Product Types

Bottled, purified, refill and packaged drinking water

Assessment Type

Microbiology, chemistry and physical quality

Reference Standard

SANS 1657 bottled water requirements

Sampling Points

Raw, treated, filler and finished product

Laboratory

SANAS-accredited testing partner

Reporting

Laboratory results and H2OGuru Clarity Report

Who Should Use This Package?

Bottled Water Producers

Assess the quality and consistency of finished bottled water products.

Water Refill Shops

Monitor purified water sold into customer containers or refill bottles.

Private-Label Brands

Verify products manufactured or bottled on behalf of a retail or hospitality brand.

Retailers and Distributors

Investigate product concerns, supplier performance or customer complaints.

Hospitality and Events

Check water packaged for hotels, lodges, restaurants, conferences and events.

New Bottling Facilities

Establish baseline quality before production, registration, expansion or product launch.

What Does the Package Test?

The final parameter list is confirmed according to the product type, source water, treatment process and monitoring objective. A bottled water assessment typically includes the following groups:

Parameter Group	Typical Determinants	Why They Matter
Microbiology	E. coli, coliform indicators, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and standard or heterotrophic plate count where included	Assesses product hygiene, faecal contamination, process control, biofilm growth and post-treatment contamination.

Physical and Aesthetic Quality	Colour, turbidity, conductivity, total dissolved solids, taste and odour indicators	Influences product clarity, acceptability, consistency and customer perception.
General Chemistry	pH, alkalinity, hardness, calcium and magnesium	Helps evaluate product stability, mineral balance, corrosion, scaling and treatment performance.
Major Salts and Nutrients	Chloride, sulphate, sodium, nitrate, nitrite and ammonia	Provides information on source quality, pollution, salinity and possible health concerns.
Metals and Trace Elements	Iron, manganese, copper, zinc, fluoride and other determinants included in the selected profile	Can affect safety, taste, colour, staining, packaging interaction and brand quality.
Operational Indicators	Selected raw and treated water comparisons	Helps determine whether filtration, reverse osmosis, remineralisation and disinfection are functioning correctly.

The exact profile should be confirmed before sampling. The required parameters may differ between natural water, prepared water, purified water, refill water and other packaged drinking water categories.

Where Contamination Can Enter the Product

Source Water

Borehole, municipal or blended source water may contain microorganisms, salts, metals or treatment challenges.

Storage Tanks

Dirty, warm or poorly sealed tanks may support bacterial regrowth and biofilm formation.

Filters and Membranes

Exhausted cartridges, damaged membranes or poor maintenance can allow contaminants to pass through.

Filling Equipment

Nozzles, filler heads and contact surfaces can introduce contamination after treatment.

Bottles and Caps

Poor washing, handling or storage can compromise an otherwise acceptable water product.

Staff and Hygiene Practices

Hands, gloves, tools, work surfaces and poor process separation can affect finished-product quality.

Recommended Sampling Points

Raw Source Water

Shows the untreated quality entering the facility and the load placed on the treatment system.

After Treatment

Confirms whether filtration, reverse osmosis, UV or disinfection is reducing the target contaminants.

At the Filling Point

Helps identify contamination introduced through tanks, pipework or filler equipment.

Finished Bottled Product

Represents the product that reaches the customer and is the key verification point for final quality.

Retained Shelf Sample

Useful when investigating shelf-life concerns, customer complaints or possible post-production changes.

Multiple Production Lines

Separate samples may be required where different fillers, tanks, products or treatment lines are used.

Common Problems This Test Can Identify

Microbiological Contamination

E. coli, coliforms, Pseudomonas or elevated plate counts associated with poor hygiene or process control.

Failed Disinfection

Ineffective UV, inadequate sanitisation or contamination after the treatment stage.

Inconsistent Mineral Quality

Changes in conductivity, pH, hardness or dissolved solids between production batches.

RO Performance Problems

Membrane damage, poor rejection, incorrect blending or treatment bypass.

Tank and Biofilm Contamination

Bacterial regrowth in tanks, pipework, filters and filling equipment.

Taste, Odour and Clarity Concerns

Physical or chemical factors that may affect customer acceptance and product quality.

The H₂OGuru Sample-to-Solution Process

1

Review the product and treatment process

2

Confirm the testing profile and sampling points

3

Collect representative sterile samples

4

Complete accredited laboratory testing

5

Interpret the results in a Clarity Report

6

Support corrective action and verification

Bottled water testing is most useful when the sample location, batch details, production date, source water and treatment process are recorded. This helps distinguish source-water problems from process or packaging contamination.

What You Receive

Laboratory Test Report

The formal analytical results issued by the accredited testing laboratory.

H₂OGuru Clarity Report

A practical interpretation of compliant, non-compliant and operationally important findings.

Corrective-Action Guidance

Where required, the report may recommend cleaning, sanitisation, maintenance, treatment adjustment or repeat testing.

Why Choose H₂OGuru?

H ₂ OGuru Service	Benefit to the Client
Process-based sampling	Helps identify whether a problem originates in the source, treatment line, tank, filler or finished product.
Accredited laboratory testing	Provides reliable analytical data produced within the laboratory's accredited scope.
Clarity Report	Explains the findings in practical terms instead of supplying raw numbers only.
Treatment and hygiene guidance	Supports corrective action for filters, RO systems, UV, tanks, fillers and cleaning procedures.
Verification testing	Confirms whether corrective actions have restored product quality and process control.

Need a Different Analysis?

Not every water source or project requires the same laboratory profile. Explore the other H₂OGuru testing packages to select the analysis that matches your water source and intended use.

SANS 241 Chemistry and Microbiology

A complete drinking water assessment covering chemical and microbiological quality.

SANS 241 Chemistry Only

For minerals, metals, salts, hardness, scaling and chemical compliance.

SANS 241 Microbiology Only

For E. coli, coliforms and routine microbiological monitoring.

Irrigation Water Testing

For salinity, sodium hazard, crop suitability and irrigation performance.

Wastewater and Effluent

For process monitoring, discharge assessment and reuse investigations.

SANS 51008 Concrete Water

For water used in concrete mixing and construction applications.

Water Source Identification

Compare seepage water with municipal, borehole or groundwater sources.

Custom Water Testing

Tailored parameter selection for specialised projects and investigations.

Verify the Water That Reaches Your Customer

Arrange professional SANS 1657 bottled water testing and receive clear guidance on product quality, process control and corrective action.

[Request a Quote](#)

[Book Water Sampling](#)