

Make an indicator

Did you know we do up to 70 tests on your drinking water to make sure it is safe?

We test the water to see if it is acidic, basic or neutral, to meet the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*.

An indicator is a chemical that changes colour in acidic, basic and neutral substances. Here's a fun way to compare the substances in your home by making a natural indicator from red cabbage.

Safety first! Adult supervision is needed for preparing the cabbage water. Follow any safety precautions on household substances before testing them.

Did you know?

You can come behind the scenes and see how we treat the water at our filtration plants to provide you with safe, clean drinking water.

[See over to the page to find out how you can book your free tour.](#)

What you'll need



- Hot water
- ¼ red cabbage (chopped)
- Colander
- 2 x 1L plastic jugs
- Substances to test (tap water, soda water, vinegar, detergent, lemon juice, dissolved aspirin, dissolved laundry powder)
- Clear plastic cups (labelled with each of your test substances)




Make your cabbage indicator

- Place the cabbage into a jug and fill it with hot water
- Once the water has turned purple, strain it into the second jug and let it cool.

Test your substances

- Half fill the test cups with your cabbage water indicator
- Slowly add your test substances to the cups until the colour changes
- Decide which substances are acidic, basic or neutral

Cabbage water results

-  Red/purple = acidic
-  Violet = neutral
-  Blue, green or yellow = basic





Visit one of our water filtration, wastewater treatment or water recycling plants to find out how Sydney Water makes water safe for almost 5 million people.

- Come behind the scenes with industry professionals and qualified teachers.
- See firsthand the operations and technology used in the treatment processes.
- Syllabus linked HSC Chemistry, HSC Earth and Environmental Science, Senior Science, Biology and general secondary science programs are available at selected sites.

To book

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Student and Teacher resources also available at sydneywater.com.au/education

You can visit our website to find out more about how we test your water sydneywater.com.au/education