



TEST YOUR PRIVATE WELL ANNUALLY

WHY SHOULD I TEST MY WELL?

Private well owners are responsible for regularly testing and maintaining their well. Unwanted substances known as contaminants can get into private well water.

Contaminants in your drinking water may lead to health problems. This makes private well testing important for better health.

Testing is often not required but is encouraged because many contaminants may not cause any change in your water's taste, color, or smell.

WHAT SHOULD I TEST FOR?

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommends these tests for common contaminants that can be harmful to human health:

1 Bacteria

- Test once a year
- Test any time the well is modified
- Test any time there is a change in smell, taste, or color

3 Arsenic

- Test when a new well is installed
- Test yearly if arsenic was previously detected
- Test at least once every 5 years

2 Nitrate

- Test once a year
- Test before a pregnant person or infant drinks the water

? Additional Tests

Additional tests may be recommended for your situation. Please see go.wisc.edu/water-testing for more information.

WHERE CAN I GET A TEST?

A certified local option in your area is:

UW-Madison Extension - Columbia County
112 E. Edgewater St, Room 212
Portage, WI 53901
(608) 742-9680

Test kits are available:

Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm

Additional certified labs at:
<https://go.wisc.edu/private-wells>

Available tests:

Homeowners - \$60*

Includes: Bacteria, Nitrates, pH,
Hardness, Conductivity, Corrosivity,
Chloride, Alkalinity

*FREE testing is available through the Columbia Co. Dept of Health for pregnant women and families with infants up to one year of age who participate in BadgerCare, Foodshare, WIC, or who are experiencing financial hardship. Call (608) 742-9227 to schedule an appointment to pick up well water test kit (bacteria, nitrates, fluoride, and metals).

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF CONTAMINANTS?

1 General Questions?

Contact the Columbia County Department of Health at 608-742-9751, or the testing agency you used.

3 Learn About Mitigation Strategies

Find more information on filtration and other household water treatment systems at:
<https://go.wisc.edu/mitigation-strategies>

Find a water treatment device for your needs on the National Science Foundation's Website:
<https://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/>

2 Learn About Health Concerns

Contact: Wisconsin Dept of Health Services
(608) 266-1120
dhsEnvHealth@wi.gov
<https://go.wisc.edu/dhs-private-wells>

4 Schedule Well Repairs

If your tests indicated a problem, you may need to contact a well driller or pump installer.

Find a list of contacts by county here:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Wells/contacts.html>

**FOR ALL WEBSITE LINKS AND
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT:**

<https://go.wisc.edu/private-wells>