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

2. **Nitrate**
   - Test once a year
   - Test before a pregnant person or infant drinks the water

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

4. **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?

Marathon County Health Department Laboratory
1000 Lake View Dr, Ste 100, Wausau, WI 54403
(715) 261-1900
https://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/HealthDepartment/EnvironmentalHealth/WaterTestingLab.aspx

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

Test kits are available:
Monday – Wednesday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
CLOSED Fridays

How much does it cost?
Coliform Bacteria - $22
Nitrates - $33
Arsenic - $42

More tests and kit packages are available. Please call or visit website
for pricing. Payment will be collected when the water sample is
dropped off at the laboratory.

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

1. General Questions?
   Marathon County Public Health Department
   (715) 261-1908
   health@co.marathon.wi.us

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

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/

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

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