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

Additional Tests

Additional tests may be recommended for your situation. Please see go.wisc.edu/water-testing for more information.
WHERE CAN I REQUEST A TESTING KIT?

Menominee County Forester  
3270 Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135-0279  
Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Phone: (715) 799-5710  
Website: https://go.wisc.edu/menominee-county-water-testing

Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department  
Office hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
311 N Main St, Room 102, Shawano, WI 54166  
Phone: (715) 526-4808  
Website: https://go.wisc.edu/0y255x

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

What does testing cost?
Recommended Test Package:  
Homeowners $70  
Includes: Bacteria, Nitrates, Arsenic, pH, Iron,  
Hardness, and Alkalinity  
Other tests are available, prices vary.  
Bacteria - $30  
Nitrate - $30  
Fluoride - $26

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

1. General Questions?  
   Contact your local health department with  
   questions about well water quality.

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