

# 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

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- 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

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

### 2 Nitrate

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

### ? Additional Tests

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Additional tests may be recommended for your situation. Please see [go.wisc.edu/water-testing](https://go.wisc.edu/water-testing) for more information.

## WHERE CAN I REQUEST A TESTING KIT?

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

Test kits are available at the Polk County Health Department  
Call 715-485-8400 for more information.  
100 Polk County Plz  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
Hours: 8:30-4:30

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

### 1 General Questions?

Contact your local health department, 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](mailto: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>**