

Private Well Water Testing

Why are we concerned about testing well water?

It is important to test private well water to ensure your water is safe to drink and free from contaminants that may make you or your animals sick.

How often should I test my well water?

The Virginia Department of Health recommends you have your water tested once a year. The test measures the presence/amount of bacteria in your water that may cause illness. Have your water tested when:

- The wellhead has been exposed to flood waters or you notice a change in water quality, taste, or appearance.
- There are known problems with well water in your area
- You have problems near your well (i.e. flooding, land disturbances, and nearby waste disposal sites)
- You replace or repair any part of your well system



How can I get my well water tested?

Well water should be tested by a state-certified lab. Visit www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-health/water-testing/ to find a lab that provides these services. Most commercial labs can provide you with everything you need for your well sample including containers, preservatives, and instructions on how to collect the sample.

What if I cannot afford to get my well water tested?

The Virginia Household Water Quality Program provides low cost well water testing during their annual drinking water clinics. Participants can get a comprehensive test for \$60, collect, and drop off test results all in one day. For more information about these clinics visit <https://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/events.php>.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/testing



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