



KEEPING PRIVATE WELL WATER SAFE

If you get your drinking water from a private household well, it is important to test your well water to ensure that the water supply is both safe to drink and appealing to use.

If your drinking water does not come from a public water system, you are responsible for monitoring the quality of your well water and for maintaining your well.

Even if your well water appears to be problem-free, it may not necessarily be acceptable to drink. **Test water every year** especially if you have a new well, or have replaced or repaired pipes, pumps or the well casing. Regular testing can help you identify the presence of contaminants in water even when it looks and smells safe to drink. **Use a licensed laboratory to test your well water!**

Infants and young children, people with weakened immune systems, pregnant women, and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to water contamination. It is especially important to test your water regularly if any of these individuals are living in your household.

Common contaminants may include:

- Microorganisms (coliform bacteria and nitrates from animal and human waste)
- Radon from underlying rock and groundwater
- Fertilizers and pesticides
- Lead from older household pipes and/or pipe solder
- Volatile organic compounds
- Heavy metals from underground rocks and soils or manufacturing (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead and selenium)

You can reduce the level of contaminants in your well water:

- Install a home water treatment device
- Use a licensed well driller if you need to install a new and/or deeper well
- Repair and/or maintain your septic system
- Properly use, store and dispose of hazardous chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers
- Disinfect your well, boil your water and repair or replace your household pipes as temporary solutions to reduce exposure to contaminants

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

US Environmental Protection Agency
<http://water.epa.gov> ■ (800) 426-4791

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
www.state.nj.us/dep/pwta ■ (866) 479-8378

NJ Department of Health
www.state.nj.us/health ■ (800) 367-6543

WEST WINDSOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT

serving the communities of West Windsor ■ Hightstown ■ Robbinsville