



Clark County Health Department

Water Sampling



Fee-Exempt/Bacteria, Nitrate, and Metals

Are you pregnant or do you have a child under the age of 1 in your home? If so you qualify for a FREE water test kit if you have a private well. Kits are provided by the Clark County Health Department, collected by the homeowner/resident, and mailed back to the UW State Lab of Hygiene. Samples are collected to test for bacteria, nitrates/nitrites, fluoride, and heavy metals.

Non-Fee Exempt/Bacteria Only

The Clark County Health Department (CCHD) offers bacteria testing for \$20/sample. Sample bottles are picked up at the Health Department, collected by the homeowner/resident, and need to be returned to the CCHD. Results are available in 24 hours. To obtain a bacteria water test, contact Paige Lindner at 715-743-5112 (office) or 715-937-1121 (work cell).

Additional Options

Local laboratories offer water testing for homeowners/resident and private well owners. Pricing varies based on the testing that is completed. Several packages are offered with testing being available for bacteria, nitrates/nitrites, heavy metals, inorganics, fluoride, and pesticides.

UWSP Water and Environmental Analysis Lab – Stevens Point, WI

715-346-3209

1-877-383-8378

AgSource Laboratories – Marshfield, WI

715-898-1402

Why?

Contamination of private wells has been found throughout Wisconsin. Many contaminants do not affect the color, smell, or taste of the water. The only way to make sure a well is safe for drinking is to test regularly (annually). While new wells are required to be tested for bacteria and nitrate, many private wells are not tested on a regular basis. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) estimates that only 10% of private well owners test their water regularly.

Drinking water with high levels of nitrate is unsafe for everyone. Women who are or may become pregnant and babies are especially sensitive to nitrate. High levels of nitrate can cause methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome) in babies 6 months old and can increase the risk for certain types of birth defects in pregnant women. Recent studies have shown that high levels of nitrate may cause thyroid problems and increase the risk of certain types of cancers in EVERYONE.