

Water tests available at the Health Department Laboratory:

(For Eau Claire County residents and non-residents)

- Nitrate
- Bacteria (including E. Coli)
- Arsenic
- Lead
- Copper
- Iron
- Flouride
- pH (level of acidity)
- Hardness (calcium & magnesium)
- E.Coli for fruit & vegetable ag
- Volatile organic compounds

Please call (715) 839-4718 for current testing prices or to have a sample kit shipped to you.

Health Department staff can help you determine the type of test(s) needed and meaning of your test results.

Questions? Please contact

Eau Claire City-County Health Dept
720 2nd Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Phone: (715) 839-4718

Email: echhealth@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Web: wells.ehealthdepartment.org

Additional drinking water safety information is available at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/index.htm



Promoting health and safety for all Eau Claire communities



**Eau Claire City-County
Health Department**



**Water Testing
for
Private Wells**

What should I test?

The Health Department recommends a **minimum of a yearly test for nitrate and bacteria present in the well**. These are the most common tests by the Health Department. The Health Department can analyze other potential contaminants of well water (see back).

Contaminants such as lead, copper, and arsenic may be present in drinking water either because they naturally occur in the groundwater, or as a result of the plumbing or fixtures in your home.

Free water testing is available for Eau Claire County families that are expecting or have recently had a baby

Call (715) 839-4718
or visit

wells.echealthdepartment.org

Why should I test?

You can not **see, smell, or taste if your water has high nitrate, bacteria**, or some other contaminants. In addition, boiling water does not remove contaminants such as nitrate, lead, or arsenic.



Wells can become unsafe due to contaminated groundwater, when maintenance work is done on the well, or if the well construction is weakened.

Nitrate can be present in well water from runoff from fertilized lawns or fields. High nitrate levels are unhealthy for everyone, but especially for babies less than 6 months old and pregnant women.

Bacteria testing looks for signs of bacteria that can make people sick. This often indicates contaminated groundwater or problems with your well construction.

Other potential contaminants and naturally occurring characteristics (pH, hardness, iron) may lead to illness, developmental delays in children, or damage your well or plumbing.

When should I test?

Test right away if:

- Pregnant women or babies use the water
- If there is a change of taste, smell, or color of the water

Test every year for:

- Nitrate and bacteria

Test twice a year (6 months apart) if:

- A new well is built
- You have not tested your well in the past 5 years

If you have specific health concerns or experience diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, or cramps that may be related to your well, talk to your doctor.

