

Why should I test?

You can not see, smell, or taste if your water has high nitrate, bacteria, or many 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.

Questions? Please contact

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

Phone: (715) 839-4718

Email: ECHDlab@eauclairecounty.gov

Web:

Scan the QR code or visit
wells.ehealthdepartment.org



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



Building a healthier community for all through prevention-focused programs and partnerships



Eau Claire City-County
Health Department



Water Testing
for
Private Wells

What 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:

- Bacteria
- Nitrate

Test every five years or more frequently if levels are elevated:

- Arsenic
- Manganese
- Lead
- Copper

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.



ECCCHD Public Health Laboratory Testing	Price
COMMON HOMEOWNER TESTS	
Bacteria (Coliform + E. coli) Tests for presence of bacteria. Recommended annually.	\$27
Bacteria - Quantitative/TECTA This test is typically used for produce growers and urgent city water requirements. <i>(Needs to be scheduled in advance with lab)</i>	\$37
Nitrate Pregnant women and infants are most at risk, may indicate presence of other contaminants. Recommended annually.	\$27
Total Hardness Important factor in water softening. May have scaly residues and difficulty lathering.	\$32
pH Measures water acidity to help assess corrosivity of water to lead and copper pipes.	\$15
Fluoride Naturally occurring in groundwater, useful for considering fluoride supplements for young children.	\$27
Lead May leach from lead-containing solder and fixtures due to corrosive water. Especially harmful to pregnant women, infants, and young children.	\$32
Copper May leach from pipes due to corrosive water. Water may taste metallic and leave blue-green stains in sinks.	\$32
Arsenic Has no taste or odor. Can be toxic even at low levels. Wells should be tested for arsenic at least once before use.	\$32
Manganese Water may have black specks, metallic taste, or cause stained plumbing fixtures or laundry. Toxic at high levels.	\$32

ADDITIONAL TESTS AVAILABLE	
Nitrite Uncommon in groundwater but required for some home loans.	\$34
Iron Bacteria Not known to harm health but are a nuisance. Water may smell musty, swampy, or oily. May appear yellow, orange, or red and leave stains. May also have a rainbow colored, oil-like sheen and red slimy deposits.	\$40
Sulfate Reducing Bacteria Not known to harm health but are a nuisance. Water may have rotten egg smell, black and yellow staining on silverware, corrosion on pipes and metal components, and slime deposits.	\$40
Iron Water may have a metallic taste or leave brown or orange stains.	\$32
Homeowner's Bundle <i>(Bacteria, Nitrate, Arsenic, Copper, Manganese, Lead)</i>	\$100
Homeowner's PLUS Bundle <i>(Homeowner's Bundle + Iron and Hardness)</i>	\$120
Homeowner's PREMIUM Bundle <i>(Homeowner's PLUS bundle + Metals & Minerals Bundle)</i>	\$155
Metals & Minerals Bundle <i>(Arsenic, Copper, Manganese, Lead, Iron, Hardness, Aluminum, Antimony, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Cobalt, Chromium, Nickel, Potassium, Selenium, Sodium, Silver, Thallium, Zinc)</i> <i>**All metals in bundle can be tested individually for \$30 each**</i>	\$121
Newborn Bundle <i>(Bacteria, Nitrate, Lead, Copper, Fluoride)</i> *Free for Eau Claire County homes with a private well and a pregnant woman or child under 1.	\$80



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For an up-to-date PDF with water testing prices, scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/ecwatertestingprices