



PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

Home Owner's Guide to Well Water Testing

Why should I test my well water?

- Since wells are supplied by ground water, it is a possibility that the water source contains contaminants. It is important to test your water annually to check the quality of the water in your home. Some contaminants are not necessarily harmful to your health. However, other contaminants can lead to serious health issues. **Note that these analyses are not reported to the state, these reports are non-compliance and for your own personal knowledge. For real estate and compliance sampling there are different standards that must be met. Samples can be dropped off Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. We ask that no samples are brought in on Fridays.**

What test(s) should I consider doing?

- It is recommended to initially test for the following contaminants to establish a baseline;
 - Bacteria, including coliform and E. coli;
 - Nitrate, a nitrogen compound that comes from runoff;
 - Heavy metals like lead and copper.
- Once a baseline is established and if there are no contaminants, the state recommends the following testing schedule;
 - **Every Year:** Test for total coliform and E. coli.
 - Also **check the wellhead once a year** to make sure it is working properly and ensure that there are no cracks or openings where contaminants can get into your groundwater.
 - **Every Two Years:** Test for nitrates, lead and copper.

What should I do if my well contains contaminants or tests poorly?

- Depending on the contaminants detected, there are different courses of action that can be taken. The most common contaminate that is found is bacteria, this can be eliminated by chlorinating the well and then retesting the water to ensure that bacteria are no longer present.