

Why Test Private Well Water?

If your family gets drinking water from a private well, do you know if your water is safe to drink? Do you know what health risks you may be exposed to? Well water can be tested for a variety of contaminants such as pesticides, microorganisms, organic chemicals and heavy metals. The State of New Jersey recommends testing for bacteria once a year and every three years for volatile organics every three years. Volatile organics are variety of chemicals which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects. These health effects can include eye, nose, and throat irritation; headaches, loss of coordination, nausea; damage to liver, kidney, and central nervous system. Some organics can cause cancer in animals; some are suspected or known to cause cancer in humans.

Other reasons to test your water are:

- someone in your household is pregnant or nursing
- recurring gastro-intestinal illnesses in household members
- household plumbing that contains lead
- radon in the indoor air
- water has an objectionable taste or smell
- water appears cloudy, frothy or colored

Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission offers a well water testing program. The program includes tests for volatile organics, lead, coliform bacteria, nitrates and arsenic in home well water. The results are mailed to the homeowner and are confidential. The test kits include water containers for all five tests and easy to follow instructions.

The cost of the tests is \$275, payable in advance to NWBRHC. Test kits can be picked up at the Commission office, located at 22 West Prospect Street in Waldwick. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Testing samples will be accepted the first Monday of every month before 10:00am. This program is not intended for use during home sales. It does not comply with the Private Well Testing Act. For further information, call 201-445-7217.

Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission

20 West Prospect Street * Waldwick, NJ 07463

Phone: 201-445-7217 * Fax: (201) 445-4001

Website: www.nwbrhc.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/NWBRHC