

FAQs

Q: What information should I have about my well?

A: Well depth, age of well & pump, type of well, pump depth, and pump rate (GPM) are important pieces of information to have about your well because it will allow you to have a better idea of what potential contaminants could be in the well and can assist with ordering well water sampling tests. Contact your Environmental Health department if you are unsure of this information.

Q: What are the most common well water contaminants in the state of North Carolina?

A: Total coliform, iron, manganese, sodium, arsenic, lead, and magnesium

Q: How much does it cost to get my water sampled through the X county well program?

A: Bacteriological, inorganic, nitrates—**\$X** per sample; pesticides and petroleum—**\$X** per sample

Q: If we have been drinking the water for years without any health issues, is it okay to not get the water sampled?

A: Wells constructed before 2008 can provide opportunities for surface contamination if they have not been tested regularly. Many of the most harmful contaminants are colorless and/or odorless. CWFNC recommends testing your well for **at a minimum**: fecal coliform, arsenic, lead, zinc, nitrates, and nitrites. A full water test (required since 2008) would **also** include: barium, cadmium, copper, fluoride, iron, magnesium, manganese, mercury, selenium, silver, sodium, and pH.

Q: I don't want to test my water through the county, and would prefer to use a private laboratory. What are my options?

A: In most cases, Clean Water for NC recommends the county well programs – who use the state drinking water lab in Raleigh – as the most cost-effective option. However, if you wish to look up private labs that can test for contaminants you're interested in, there is a list of certified drinking water labs at <https://slphreporting.ncpublichealth.com/EnvironmentalSciences/Certification/CertifiedLaboratory.asp>.