Even if your water looks and smells fine, it may still contain harmful bacteria or chemicals.

**Bacteria** — Bacteria and viruses can get into well water if the well casing is damaged or if you have a dug or a shallow well.

**Chemicals** — Many wells in Maine contain harmful chemicals such as arsenic, radon, and uranium. You cannot smell or taste these chemicals. The only way to know if they are in your well water is to have your water tested.

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**Test your well today.**

It's quick and easy.

1. Find a lab
2. Call lab and order test kit
3. Fill test kit bottles with tap water
4. Return water bottles to the lab

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**Why should I test my well?**

The only way to know if your water is safe to drink is to test it.

**1 in 10 wells in Maine has too much arsenic**

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wellwater.maine.gov
866-292-3474 toll-free in Maine
207-287-4311

TTY: Call Maine Relay 711 ehurmaine.gov

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, or national origin, in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Maine Human Rights Act and Executive Order Regarding State of Maine Contracts for Services. Questions, concerns, complaints or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to DHHS ADA Compliance/EEO Coordination, 1 State House Station – 221 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-287-4289 (V), 207-287-3488 (V). TTY users call Maine relay 711. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in program and services of DHHS are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance/EEO Coordinators. This notice is available in alternate formats, upon request.

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How do I test my well?

1. Visit wellwater.maine.gov or call 1-866-292-3474 to find a certified well water testing lab.
2. Call your lab and order a test kit.
3. Fill the bottles from your test kit with tap water, and fill out the forms included with the kit.
4. Mail the kit and forms back to the lab, or drop them off in person.

For helpful information on how to test your well water, watch “How to Test Your Well Water” at youtube.com/user/MainePublicHealth

How much does it cost to test my well water?

It depends on what lab you use and what you are testing for. Here’s an example you can use to make a plan for testing your well water. Ask the lab where you test your water for prices.

Testing Plan

1. Each year do a basic safety test.
   • For bacteria, nitrate, nitrite
   • Cost: $30-$60
2. Every 5 years do a standard water test.
   • For bacteria, nitrates and other chemicals*
   • Cost: $70-$120
3. Every 5 years test for radon.
   • Test your water and air
   • Cost: $60-$80

* A standard test should include bacteria, nitrate, nitrite, arsenic, uranium, iron, manganese, fluoride, pH, and lead.

What are the health concerns?

Well Problem → Can Cause

- Bacteria ............ Diarrhea, Vomiting
- Nitrate/ Nitrite .... Infant Blood Problems
- Arsenic ............... Brain Damage, Cancer
- Uranium ............. Kidney Problems
- Manganese ....... Brain / Nerve Damage
- Fluoride .......... Too Little – Tooth decay is likely
                      Too Much – Stained Teeth
- Lead .................. Brain Damage

Other Times to do a Standard Water Test

- If you’re expecting a baby (also do a first-draw lead test)
- Your water changes in smell, taste, or color
- After installing a water treatment system, or replacing parts of your treatment system
- After any work is done on your well
- When buying a new home

Why test for all these things?

- Chances are good that your well is drilled into rock, sand, or gravel that has arsenic, radon, or other chemicals.
- If your well is a dug or shallow well it is easier for bacteria and nitrates to get in your water.
- If your well is near a farm nitrates can get in your water.
- If your well is near a septic leach field bacteria and nitrates can get in your water.
- Your plumbing or fixtures may contain lead that can dissolve into your water.

Your Well. Your Health.
We can help you figure out what to test for. Call us 866-292-3474.

What should I do if my water has a problem?

- Switch to bottled water right away
- Call our water experts toll-free in Maine at 866-292-3474 or 207-287-4311, to talk through your options.

What if I can’t afford to treat my well?

You might qualify for help to pay for treating your water. Call MaineHousing at 800-452-4668 or Maine Relay 711, or visit mainehousing.org for more information.

10 minutes is all it takes to test your well water