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| Department of Health and Human Services  Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory  221 State Street; 12 State House Station  Augusta, Maine 04333-0012  Tel: (207) 287-2727; Fax: (207) 287-6832  TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay) |

Water Testing Guide

**21 State Street  
Station #12  
Augusta, Maine  04333**

**Tel.: 207-287-1716  
Toll Free: 866-LAB-HETL (866-522-4385)  
TTY: Maine relay 711  
FAX: 207-287-6832**

Requesting Water Tests has become increasingly complex as the number and complexity of potential contaminates also increase.  To help in the selection of the appropriate testing of water, this Water Testing Guide has several sections.  First, a general description and educational information is provided to help individuals consider which water tests would be most useful, a **WATER TEST SELECTION GUIDE**.  Second, **SPECIFIC DESCRIPTIONS** of each of the standard tests offered are described, organized by type of water test.  Lastly, the **FEES**, as established through State Regulatory Administrative Procedures Act are listed.

To further assist in the test selection process, most testing needs have an associated code name; i.e. TEST A.  IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON HOW TO REQUEST A TEST OR COMPLETE THE APPLICATION, OR QUESTIONS ON YOUR WATER TEST RESULTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE HETL AT 287-1716.  If necessary, a chemist or microbiologist can return your call with interpretations and recommendations.

In order to have your water tested, go to the On-line Order Form or complete Water and Radon Air Test Order Form and return it to the HETL along with the appropriate fee.  Water test bottle(s) will be mailed to you.  Please KEEP PAGES 1 - 8 to refer to when you receive your test results.

**ROUTINE WATER TESTS, LISTED IN ORDER OF COMPLETENESS**

**This guide attempts to simplify a very complex subject.  The HETL has applied Code Names to help to identify tests, ( i.e TSA, TSBA, etc.).  We also offer recommendations for testing and guidelines to help you choose your test. Please contact the HETL is you have specific questions regarding water quality issues.**

Half of Maine’s population gets it drinking water from private wells.  It is felt that very few of them are routinely tested.  By contrast, public water supplies are tested between monthly and every year, depending on the numbers of customers they serve.  Below are some routine tests that every private well owner should consider.

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| **Test Name** | | **Test for What** | | **What Does This Test Include** | | **When Should I Test** | |
| TSA | | Basic Safety Test | | Coliform Bacteria & E. coli (pos/neg), Nitrate and Nitrite | | Every year | |
| TSBA | | New Well Evaluation | | Coliform Bacteria & E. coli (pos/neg) and Nitrate and Nitrite, Fluoride, Chloride, Hardness, Copper, Iron, pH, Manganese, magnesium, Calcium, Uranium and Arsenic | | Before initial use & every 3-5 years | |
| New Well | | New Well Test | | Coliform Bacteria & E. coli (count), Nitrate, Nitrite, Fluoride, Chloride, Hardness, Copper, Iron, pH, Manganese, Turbidity, Uranium, Arsenic, and Magnesium | | Before initial use & every 3-5 years | |
| (TSFHA) | | Residential Home Sales | | Coliform Bacteria & E. coli (pos/neg), Nitrate, Nitrite, Fluoride, Chloride, Hardness, Copper, Iron, pH, Manganese, Color, Turbidity, Sodium, Uranium, Lead, Arsenic, and Magnesium | | Before initial use & every 3-5 years | |
| Arsenic | | Arsenic | | Arsenic | | Every 3-5 years | |
| TSS | | Radon Water | | Naturally occurring Radioactive Radon Gas in Water | | Every 5-10 years | |
| PB1\* | | Lead-First Draw (Second Draw is also available to rule out ground water) | | Because the source of Lead is usually NOT the ground water, but the plumbing, a unique sample is required for a First Draw Lead | | Homes built before 1990 before initial use & every 3-5 years | |
| TSU | | Gross Alpha | | Naturally occurring radioactivity | | Every 5-10 years | |

NOTES: Lead can be present in the water source or in the plumbing or both. To test for lead in the plumbing, a Lead-First Draw-PB1 should be requested as a separate test. Arsenic was added several years ago because of growing concern for natural arsenic in Maine.

**TESTS FOR ORGANIC COMPOUND CONTAMINANTS**

There are thousands of organic compounds.  To test for these compounds the laboratory separates them into two classes of compounds based on the compound's boiling point; i.e. VOLATILES and SEMI-VOLATILES.  Each class is separated and screened for presence of organic compounds (i.e. TESTS GRO, VOC 524, & SVO 525).

This laboratory will make every reasonable effort to determine the specific identity and concentration of all separated compounds detected on the screen.  Further testing, at cost to the applicant, may be necessary.

Additional pricing for unique test requests may require use of an hourly fee schedule; volume and complexity of the request would be factors in this determination.  Contact the Laboratory for further information regarding such needs.

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| **Chlorinated Acids -** Herbicide Screen |
| **PEST\_CL\_PCBS\_508 -** Chlorinated Hydrocarbon Pesticides and PCB's |
| **HAA\_552 -** Haloacetic Acids |
| **SVO-525 -** Semi-volatile Organics Screen |
| **CARBAMATES 531 -** Carbamate Pesticides |
| **VOC-524 -** Volatile Organic Compounds |
| **TOC-D -** Total Organic Compounds - Dissolved |
| **TOC-T -** Total Organic Compounds – Total |
| **THM\_524**- Tri Halomethanes |

**RADIOLOGICAL TESTS**

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| TSS | Radon Water | Naturally occurring Radioactive Radon Gas in Water | Every 5-10 years |
| TST | Radon Air | Radon Air Short Term | To determine radon concentrations from soils, building materials, etc. |
| TSU | Gross Alpha | Naturally occurring radioactivity | Every 5-10 years |

***PAYMENT POLICY***

The HETL requires advance payment for all private well testing kits. Repeat customers may want to establish a billing account by contacting our Finance Department at 207-287-1701.