



KNOW THE FACTS

Guidance for Private Well Water

Reasons for testing well water

- Change in water quality (odor, color, or taste)
- You or your health provider suspect your drinking water may be causing health issues
- The private well, pipes, house structure, or water system have been changed
- Changes in your household, including a pregnancy, a new baby, or changes in someone's overall health.
- Changes in land use, such as farming or construction
- If your well has flooded or has been damaged by extreme weather
- The well has run dry or the amount of water flowing has changed

How often should I test my well water?

Well water should be tested for *E.coli* & total coliform bacteria annually and for contaminants, such as lead, nitrates, nitrites, and iron every 3 to 5 years.

Late spring & early summer are the best times to test your well because of wet weather.

Where can I test my well water?

- NYS Accredited Environmental Laboratory. When searching with the link below select "Commercial" as the type of facility.

<https://tinyurl.com/SLCWellTestLab>



What should I do if my well water tests positive for *E. coli* or total coliform?

Stop using your well water and use bottled water for drinking, making ice, or preparing food until the well can be disinfected and retested.

To learn more about how to disinfect your private well, visit the New York State Department of Health website at:

<https://tinyurl.com/SLCDisinfectWell>

Where do I find Certified Well Contractors?

Visit the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation water well search application at:

<https://tinyurl.com/DECWellContractor>

This sheet was adapted from information obtained from New York State Department of Health