Your new well: the first year

A private well is yours to look after. No agency tests it for you. These steps keep your water safe to drink.

1. Test your water

- In Wisconsin, the well driller must test a new well for bacteria and nitrate before it is used. Ask for a copy of the results and keep it with your well papers.
- No federal law makes you test your own well. EPA and CDC recommend testing every year for bacteria, nitrate, pH and dissolved solids.
- Test again after a flood, after work on the well, or if the water changes in taste, color or smell.
- Use a certified lab. Most test results come back in about a week.

2. Find out what is in wells near you

Scan the code, or go to **yourwaterreport.com/find/**, and type your ZIP code. You will see what tests have found in wells in your county, which tests to get, and certified labs near you.

Every number names its public source. The site is free.

3. Free or low-cost testing

- Wisconsin's Well Testing Access Program (WellTAP) gives free well tests to homes where the well serves someone who is pregnant, a child 12 or under, or a person with a weak immune system, and where cost or another burden keeps the family from testing. Tests cover bacteria, nitrate, fluoride and metals. Ask your local health department.
- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources tests private wells for PFAS for free. Fill out the department's online form to see if your well qualifies. If it does, the State Lab of Hygiene mails you a kit with a prepaid return label.

4. Take care of your well

- Keep the well cap tight and above the ground. Never bury it or pile soil or snow against it.
- Keep fertilizer, weed killer, fuel, oil and paint away from the well.
- Have your septic system checked and pumped on schedule, often every 3 to 5 years.
- Hire a licensed well driller or pump installer for repairs.

Your well was drilled by

_____

Phone _____ Date finished _____

YourWaterReport is a free, independent guide for private well owners, not a government agency. It cannot tell you whether your own well is safe; only a test of your water can. Questions or corrections: hello@yourwaterreport.com.