Water well testing key to protecting health

Testing your well water is critical to making sure it is safe to drink for you and your family. Even so, many well owners don’t test their water.

Common reasons given for not testing one’s well water are:

- “Why do I need to test?”
- “I feel fine.”
- “I don’t know what to test for.”
- “I don’t know how to get my water tested.”

Fortunately, help is available at your fingertips through the website, [www.WellOwner.org](http://www.WellOwner.org), and [www.PrivateWellClass.org](http://www.PrivateWellClass.org).

On WellOwner.org, you can find answers to these questions and more. For instance:

- “Why do I need to test?” Response: Testing is important because some dangerous substances in water are...

The Private Well Class lessons and webinars cover topics including:

- Understanding how groundwater moves and gets into your well
- How water gets from your well to your faucet
- Basics of well construction and the type of well you have
- How groundwater and wells get contaminated
- Common operations issues for well
tasteless, odorless, and invisible. Two examples are radon and arsenic.

- **“I feel fine.”**
  
  **Response:** Believing that because you feel fine there is no health risk can be misleading and dangerous. The health threat posed by radon and arsenic tend to occur over a period of years, and dramatic symptoms may not be evident for years when much of the damage has been done. A different way in which well owners can have a false sense of security involves bacteria. The presence of bacteria in water also should be taken seriously, but without a test a well owner might not know that the water has bacteria in it. Even the presence of certain harmless bacteria such as coliform bacteria can be alarming because it means a well also may be susceptible to harmful, pathogenic bacteria that could cause serious illness or even death.

- **“I don't know what to test for.”**
  
  **Response:** WellOwner.org provides simple guidance on how to approach water testing, and the National Ground Water Association’s other website offers state water testing recommendations or requirements on this page: [http://www.ngwa.org/Professional-Resources/state-info/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.ngwa.org/Professional-Resources/state-info/Pages/default.aspx)

Find state-specific well owner resources

States offer a number of resources to well owners, and you can access some of them on this page of WellOwner.org.

Enroll now for the November 4 webinar, Well Care 101.