

Why should I test?

You can not **see, smell, or taste** if your water has **high nitrate, bacteria**, or many other contaminants. In addition, boiling water does not remove contaminants such as nitrate, lead, or arsenic.



Wells can become unsafe due to contaminated groundwater, when maintenance work is done on the well, or if the well construction is weakened.

Nitrate can be present in **well water from runoff from fertilized lawns or fields**. High nitrate levels are unhealthy for everyone, but especially for babies less than 6 months old and pregnant women.

Bacteria testing looks for signs of bacteria that can make people sick. This often indicates contaminated groundwater or problems with your well construction.

Other potential contaminants and naturally occurring characteristics (pH, hardness, iron) may lead to illness, developmental delays in children, or damage your well or plumbing.

Questions? Please contact

Eau Claire City-County Health Dept
720 2nd Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Phone: (715) 839-4718

Email: ECHDlab@eauclairecounty.gov

Web:

Scan the QR code or visit
wells.echealthdepartment.org



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Additional drinking water safety information is available at

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/index.htm



Building a healthier community for all through prevention-focused programs and partnerships



Eau Claire City-County
Health Department



Water Testing for Private Wells

What should I test?

Test right away if:

- Pregnant women or babies use the water
- If there is a change of taste, smell, or color of the water

Test every year for:

- Bacteria
- Nitrate

Test every five years or more frequently if levels are elevated:

- Arsenic
- Manganese
- Lead
- Copper

Test twice a year (6 months apart) if:

- A new well is built
- You have not tested your well in the past 5 years

If you have specific health concerns or experience diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, or cramps that may be related to your well, talk to your doctor.



ECCCCHD Public Health Laboratory Testing

COMMON HOMEOWNER TESTS

Bacteria (Coliform + E. coli) Tests for presence of bacteria	\$25
Bacteria - Quantitative/TECTA This test is typically used for produce growers & urgent public water requirements. <i>(Needs to be scheduled in advance with lab)</i>	\$32
Nitrate Pregnant women and infants are most at risk for health effects.	\$25
Arsenic Has no taste or odor. Can be toxic even at low levels. Wells should be tested for arsenic at least once before use.	\$30
Lead May leach from lead-containing fixtures due to corrosive water. Harmful to pregnant women, infants, and young children.	\$30
Copper May leach from pipes due to corrosive water. Water may taste metallic and leave blue-green stains in sinks.	\$30
Manganese Water may have black specks, metallic taste, or cause stained plumbing fixtures or laundry. Can be toxic at high levels.	\$30
Fluoride Naturally occurring in groundwater, useful for considering fluoride supplements for young children/adolescents.	\$25

For an up-to-date PDF with water testing prices, scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/ecwatertestingprices



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ADDITIONAL TESTS AVAILABLE

Nitrite Uncommon in groundwater. Required for some home loans.	\$32
Iron Water may have a metallic taste or leave brown or orange stains.	\$30
Total Hardness Important factor in water softening. May have scaly residues and difficulty lathering.	\$30
pH Measures water acidity to help assess corrosivity of water to lead and copper pipes.	\$12
Homeowner's Bundle (Includes Bacteria, Nitrate, Arsenic, Copper, Manganese, Lead)	\$95
Homeowner's PLUS Bundle (Includes Bacteria, Nitrate, Arsenic, Copper, Manganese, Lead, Iron, Hardness)	\$115
Homeowner's PREMIUM Bundle (Includes Bacteria, Nitrate, Arsenic, Copper, Manganese, Lead, Iron, Hardness, Aluminum, Antimony, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Cobalt, Chromium, Nickel, Potassium, Selenium, Sodium, Silver, Thallium, Zinc)	\$150
Metals & Minerals Bundle (Includes Arsenic, Copper, Manganese, Lead, Iron, Hardness, Aluminum, Antimony, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Cobalt, Chromium, Nickel, Potassium, Selenium, Sodium, Silver, Thallium, Zinc) <i>**All metals in bundle can be tested individually for \$30 each**</i>	\$118
Newborn Bundle (Includes Bacteria, Nitrate, Lead, Copper, Fluoride)	\$75

FREE water testing is available for Eau Claire County families that are expecting or have a child under the age of one.