

1 in 10

wells in Maine has too much arsenic

Even if your water looks and smells fine, it may still contain harmful bacteria or chemicals.

Bacteria — Bacteria and viruses can get into well water if the well casing is damaged or if you have a dug or a shallow well.

Chemicals — Many wells in Maine contain harmful chemicals such as arsenic, radon, and uranium. You cannot smell or taste these chemicals. The only way to know if they are in your well water is to have your water tested.

Test your well today. It's quick and easy.

1. Find a lab
2. Call lab and order test kit
3. Fill test kit bottles with tap water
4. Return water bottles to the lab



wellwater.maine.gov
866-292-3474 toll-free in Maine
207-287-4311

TTY: Call Maine Relay 711 ehu@maine.gov

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Test Your Well Water!

Your Well. Your Health.



Why should I test my well?

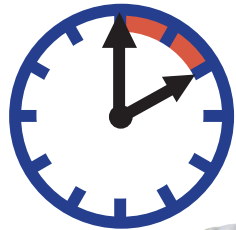
The only way to know if your water is safe to drink is to test it.



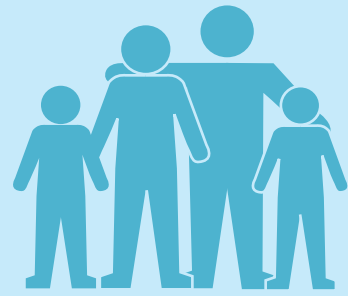
How do I test my well?

1. Visit wellwater.maine.gov or call 1-866-292-3474 to find a certified well water testing lab.
2. Call your lab and order a test kit.
3. Fill the bottles from your test kit with tap water, and fill out the forms included with the kit.
4. Mail the kit and forms back to the lab, or drop them off in person.

For helpful information on how to test your well water, watch “How to Test Your Well Water” at [youtube.com/user/MainePublicHealth](https://www.youtube.com/user/MainePublicHealth)



10 minutes
is all it takes
to test your
well water



Your Well. Your Health.
We can help you figure out
what to test for. Call us
866-292-3474.

What should I do if my water has a problem?

- ▶ Switch to bottled water right away
- ▶ Call our water experts toll-free in Maine at 866-292-3474 or 207-287-4311, to talk through your options.

What if I can't afford to treat my well?

You might qualify for help to pay for treating your water. Call MaineHousing at 800-452-4668 or Maine Relay 711, or visit mainehousing.org for more information.



How much does it cost to test my well water?

It depends on what lab you use and what you are testing for. Here's an example you can use to make a plan for testing your well water. Ask the lab where you test your water for prices.

Testing Plan

1. Each year do a basic safety test.
 - For bacteria, nitrate, nitrite
 - Cost: \$30-\$60
2. Every 5 years do a standard water test.
 - For bacteria, nitrates and other chemicals*
 - Cost: \$70-\$120
3. Every 5 years test for radon.
 - Test your water and air
 - Cost: \$60-\$80

* A standard test should include bacteria, nitrate, nitrite, arsenic, uranium, iron, manganese, fluoride, pH, and lead.

Other Times to do a Standard Water Test

- If you're expecting a baby (also do a first-draw lead test)
- Your water changes in smell, taste, or color
- After installing a water treatment system, or replacing parts of your treatment system
- After any work is done on your well
- When buying a new home

Why test for all these things?

- Chances are good that your well is drilled into rock, sand, or gravel that has arsenic, radon, or other chemicals.
- If your well is a dug or shallow well it is easier for bacteria and nitrates to get in your water.
- If your well is near a farm nitrates can get in your water.
- If your well is near a septic leach field bacteria and nitrates can get in your water.
- Your plumbing or fixtures may contain lead that can dissolve into your water.

What are the health concerns?

Well Problem → Can Cause

Bacteria	Diarrhea, Vomiting
Nitrate/ Nitrite....	Infant Blood Problems
Arsenic.....	Brain Damage, Cancer
Radon	Cancer
Uranium	Kidney Problems
Manganese.....	Brain / Nerve Damage
Fluoride	Too Little – Tooth decay is likely Too Much – Stained Teeth
Lead	Brain Damage

