



*Did you know that your well water is actually groundwater?*

**G**roundwater is water that occupies void spaces between soil particles or cracks in rock below the land surface. It is a local resource that originates as precipitation which infiltrates into the ground. The type of soil and bedrock that a well is drilled into often determines the pH, corrosion index or the amount of hardness or alkalinity in water. The type of soil and bedrock in a region also determines how quickly contaminants can reach groundwater.

**H**uman activities are often responsible for elevated levels of contaminants such as nitrate and chloride.



### *Why Should You Test Your Well?*

**A**s one of Wisconsin's 900,000 private well owners or private well water customers, you probably use groundwater for doing a host of activities such as laundry, drinking, cooking, bathing, gardening, etc. Municipalities are required to test their water supplies regularly to ensure the water is safe to drink. Since there is no requirement to test a private well except for bacteria when your well is first drilled or the pump is changed, you are responsible for making sure your water is safe.

**M**ost private wells provide a clean, safe supply of water. However, contaminants may pollute private wells and unfortunately you cannot see, smell or taste most of them. You should test your water on a regular basis depending on the types of land uses near your well.

*To Obtain a Water Test Kit Visit:*

*Washington County  
Planning & Parks Department  
Land & Water Conservation Division  
333 E. Washington St., Ste 2300  
West Bend, WI 53095-2003  
phone: 262.335.4800  
[www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd)*

Washington County



*Well Water Testing*



Center for  
Watershed Science  
and Education

*The Homeowners  
Well Water  
Test Kit includes  
8 Analyses to  
Determine Your  
Drinking Water Quality:*

*Coliform bacteria*

*Total hardness*

*Alkalinity*

*Conductivity*

*pH*

*Corrosivity index*

*Nitrate plus nitrite nitrogen*

*Chloride*

# Water Quality Tests for Your Drinking Water

The following list of water analyses and costs cover the majority of tests that would be of interest to private well owners.

## Homeowners Water Test Package (Includes the following Tests 1-8)

**\*Price(s)**

This is a 43% discount from the total individual cost of \$91.00.

**\$52.00**

The Homeowners Package consists of the following analyses which can be requested separately for the price indicated **less the cost of the test bottle (\$3.25)**. **(Priority analysis: 48 hour turn around total cost \$98.00)**

- |    |                                      |   |                |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. | <b>Coliform bacteria</b>             | A test of the bacteriological safety of a water supply.<br><b>(Priority analysis: 48 hour turn around total cost \$46.00)</b>   | <b>\$23.00</b> |
| 2. | <b>Nitrate plus nitrite nitrogen</b> | The most common chemical contaminants in Wisconsin groundwater. They may also serve as an indicator of the potential presence of other contaminants, such as pesticides or trace organic chemicals from septic system effluent. <b>(Priority analysis: 48 hour turnaround total cost \$32.00)</b> | <b>\$16.00</b> |
| 3. | <b>pH</b>                            | A measure of relative acidity of the water. Useful in assessing the corrosivity of water to plumbing.   | <b>\$9.00</b>  |
| 4. | <b>Alkalinity</b>                    | Amount of bicarbonate, the major anion in water, related to pH and corrosion.   | <b>\$9.00</b>  |
| 5. | <b>Total hardness</b>                | A measure of the amount of calcium and magnesium. Important if water softening is considered.   | <b>\$9.00</b>  |
| 6. | <b>Chloride</b>                      | An indicator ion, that if found in elevated concentration, indicates potential contamination from septic systems, fertilizer, landfills or road salt.   | <b>\$16.00</b> |
| 7. | <b>Conductivity</b>                  | A measure of total dissolved minerals in water. Change in conductivity or unusual ratio of conductivity to hardness may signal presence of contaminants.  | <b>\$9.00</b>  |
| 8. | <b>Corrosivity index</b>             | A calculation to determine the tendency of water to be corrosive or scale forming.  |                |

**Homeowner Package plus Fluoride**

**\$68.00**

**Fluoride Only**

**\$19.00**

**Metals Package available through the lab only.** (Requires an acidified bottle - call the lab at 877.383.8378 for more information) This is a 74% discount from the total individual cost of \$187.00.

**\$49.00**

**Individual Metals Testing is \$17.00 each** for the following metals:

Arsenic, Calcium, Copper, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sodium, Total Sulfur (SO<sub>4</sub>) & Zinc

**Diaminochlorotriazine (DACT) Screen** – Atrazine is a commonly applied pesticide used to control weeds in corn fields and has been found in Wisconsin's groundwater. It is a good first indicator of pesticide contamination in wells and can help you to decide whether additional pesticides may also be a concern. *(Requires a separate bottle - call the lab)*

**\$30.00**