

## Choosing a Water Quality Test

**Health Scan**—This analysis is designed to cover the contaminants most often seen in private well water. If there is any odor this is the test you will want to request—\$328.00

**Comprehensive Scan**—For wells that meet all construction and maintenance criteria and where NO taste, odor or color issues are present, this may be an acceptable alternative— \$238.00

**Standard Scan**—provides analysis sufficient to meet banking and many town requirements. Some commonly found contaminants are not checked—\$198.00

**Custom Testing-** We can design custom testing for your needs. For those who desire the most extensive possible testing our **Environmental Scan** or **Advanced Environmental Health Scan** may be the right choice. Ask us about this testing.



WANT TO KNOW  
MORE ABOUT  
MAINTAINING YOUR  
PRIVATE WELL?

GIVE US A CALL.  
(800) 344-9977

*We know water ..... WELL!*

 **ETR  
Laboratories**

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WELL?



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## Facts about wells

Millions of Americans depend on private wells for their water supply. We understand those needs. We have been working with private well owners since 1995 and have owned our own wells even longer. We understand the private well owner's issues.

As the owner of the well, you are primarily responsible for ensuring the safety and quality of the water. In many cases a local authority will require the well driller to prove that the water is potable prior to being turned over to the owner for use. After that you are on your own. No government agency will inspect or regulate your use of that water. The good news is that maintaining your well is relatively inexpensive and results in excellent water in the overwhelming majority of cases.



Looks Good



Problem

Wells are generally a very reliable source of great water because they do not pass through miles of pipe to get to your home. Proper maintenance should ensure that you get the best possible water quality.

Since a well owner is primarily responsible, it is important to know what poses a threat to the well



Problem!

## Know your well

There are four major reasons that cause well water to be contaminated. They are:

- **Poor construction**— The construction of the well is critical. Modern wells properly constructed are very safe. They should be sealed from all outside sources of contamination. In many areas modern wells are drilled several hundred feet deep.
- **The well is near a contamination source**— Contamination sources can include but are not limited to: poorly managed industrial facilities, road run off, gas stations, agricultural chemicals, adjacent plant, wetlands and septic systems, buried oil tanks.
- **Inadequate annual service**—The EPA, WellOwners.org & many other organizations recommend annual maintenance of a private well to include testing the water and disinfecting the well. This is the responsibility of the well owner or user. Better to know the quality than to find out the hard way.
- **The well is improperly maintained**— The well head should be at least 18 inches above ground and have a sealed caps. It should be 50 ft (preferably 100 ft.) distance from septic and wetlands. All plantings should be such that none touch the well.

## Well water checklist

- Find the well!
- Is the top 18 inches above ground?
- Is the well cap sealed tightly?
- Does well sit above the surrounding land or is it in a depression?
- Remove all vegetation to a foot or more from well head.
- How far is the well from the septic system? At least 50 ft. Over 100 ft. is better.
- From the seller, neighbors or local experts learn about any history of the well, including when it was dug, record of maintenance, repair, running dry and/or flooding.
- How deep is the well? How long is the casing?
- Is it a shallow well or a deep drilled well?
- Is there a quality well casing in place?
- Test the water—extent of testing varies based on circumstances. Discuss your well and water with the laboratory to determine which testing will give you confidence in using your water.