

## Drinking Water Testing Program Testing Options

### Homeowner Package (\$55)

*Includes tests for nitrate, coliform bacteria, pH, alkalinity, hardness, conductivity, corrosivity, and chloride.*

Test	Which wells should be tested?	How often should I test?
<b>Coliform Bacteria</b>	Every well.	Annually, or when there is a change in taste, color, or odor.
<b>Nitrate</b>	All newly constructed wells or when you first move into a new home.	Test initially, and once every 5-10 years if levels are less than 2 mg/L.
	Wells within ¼ mile of an agricultural field or animal feed lot or if initial test measures above 2 mg/L.	Test annually to understand if your water quality is changing over time.
	Well used by pregnant women and infants.	Test before pregnancy and at time of birth.

- **Bacteria** – Coliform bacteria test is used to indicate the sanitary condition of your water supply system. The presence of coliform bacteria in a water sample indicates a potential pathway for bacteria, viruses, and parasites from human or animal waste that can cause disease. Well owners are encouraged to perform this test annually, or any time you notice a sudden change in taste, color, or odor.
- **Nitrate** – Infants less than six months of age and pregnant mothers should not drink water containing more than 10 parts per million nitrate-nitrogen because of concerns related to methemoglobinemia, a potentially fatal condition that reduces the amount of oxygen in the blood of infants. The sources of nitrate contamination is generally fertilizers, septic sewers, and manure. Because nitrate moves readily through soil and groundwater, elevated levels may also indicate the presence of other contaminants.

(Continued)

### Metals Package (\$52)

Includes tests for arsenic, lead, copper, iron, zinc, calcium, magnesium, manganese, sodium, sulfate, and potassium.

Test	Which wells should be tested?	How often should I test?
<b>Arsenic</b>	Every well.	Consider one time test, retest if iron levels increase.
	Wells that have detected arsenic in previous tests.	Test again in a year to see if levels have increased.
<b>Lead</b>	Homes with copper plumbing installed before 1985 or containing brass components.	Consider one time test.
<b>Copper</b>	Homes with copper plumbing.	Consider one time test.
	Homes where residents experience repeated symptoms of nausea, diarrhea, or abdominal cramps.	Two tests, one first draw sample in the morning and one after flushing faucet for 2-3 minutes.

- **Arsenic** – Water flowing through geologic materials that contain arsenic can sometimes dissolve at levels that are a concern for human health.
- **Lead & Copper** – Lead and copper can be leached into the water from copper pipes or lead solder (typically used in pre-1985 plumbing).
- **Iron** – This is a naturally occurring trace mineral. While not a health concern, it causes taste and color problems.
- **Zinc** – A trace metal that is toxic in elevated concentrations, zinc comes from corrosion of galvanized plumbing or water tanks.

(Continued)

### Triazine – Type Pesticide Screen (\$33)

*If your well is located within ¼ mile of a corn, soybean, or vegetable field or within ¼ mile of where pesticides are manufactured, stored, mixed, or loaded into application equipment, you should consider testing your well for pesticides.*

Test	Which wells should be tested?	How often should I test?
<b>Pesticides</b>	Wells within ¼ mile of agricultural fields or areas where pesticides are manufactured, stored, or mixed.	Test once every 5-10 years.

- **Diaminochlorotriazine (DACT) Screen** – Atrazine is a commonly applied pesticide used to control weeds in corn fields and has been found in Wisconsin’s groundwater. The DACT screen helps homeowners understand the likelihood that water exceeds health-based groundwater standards for atrazine and other triazine-type pesticides. It is a good first indicator of pesticide contamination in wells and can help you decided whether additional pesticides may also be a concern.

Get all three tests for \$132 – a savings of \$8.

### Questions?

Contact Victoria Solomon, Community Resource Development Educator, at (608) 328-9440 or Victoria.Solomon@wisc.edu.