

Where can I have my water tested?

Check USU Extension's web page for a list of drinking water certified labs throughout Utah.

Contact the lab BEFORE taking the sample to make sure you use proper containers and procedures.

How do I take a water sample?

Always use the appropriate sample containers and sampling procedures. The lab you contacted will provide bottles and instructions for each type of test.

Handle the sample according to instructions before taking it to the lab.

A poorly collected sample is worse than no sample at all ... and wastes your money!

What do the results mean?

- Compare your results with the drinking water standards (also on the lab report.)
- If any values exceed the standards, **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER!**
- Retest if bacteria, nitrate or organic parameters exceed the standards.
- If concentrations have increased since previous tests, try to identify and remove the source of pollutants.



For more information on drinking water testing and protecting your well from pollutants, contact USU Extension's water quality program (435-797-2580) or visit our web page:

www.extension.usu.edu/waterquality

Testing Your Well Water

If your drinking water comes from a private well, it is up to you to assure that your water is safe.

Learn the warning signs of polluted drinking water, and how to get your water tested.

When to test?

New Wells or New Homes:

Test for bacteria and a routine general water chemistry analysis (check our web page or a commercial lab for the complete list).

Existing Wells:

Every year:

- Test for bacteria pH, nitrate and total dissolved solids (TDS).
- Also...test for any constituents that were at or near the drinking water standard in previous tests.

Every five years:

- Have a routine water chemistry analysis performed.

Keep copies of ALL results so you can track changes in your water quality .over time.

Other reasons to test your water.

Test for:	If Conditions or Nearby Activities are:
Coliform bacteria	Recurring gastro-intestinal illness
Color, detergents	Water appears cloudy, frothy or colored
Hydrogen sulfide, corrosion, metals	Objectionable taste or smell
Chloride, total dissolved solids, sodium	Water tastes salty AND near seawater or a heavily salted roadway
Manganese, iron	Water softener needed to treat hardness
Hardness	Scaly residues, soaps don't lather
Iron, copper, manganese	Stained plumbing fixtures and laundry
Corrosion, pH	Rapid wear of water treatment equipment
Corrosion, pH, lead	Corrosion of pipes, plumbing
Lead, copper, pH	Household plumbing contains lead
Radon	Radon in indoor air or region is radon rich
Nitrate, pesticides, coliform bacteria	Nearby areas of intensive agriculture
Chloride, sodium, barium, strontium	Gas drilling operations nearby
Metals, pH, corrosion	Coal or other mining operations nearby
Volatile organic compounds, total dissolved solids, pH, sulfate, chloride, metals	Dump, junkyard, landfill, factory, gas station or dry-cleaning operation nearby
Volatile organic compounds	Odor of gasoline or fuel oil AND near gas station or buried fuel tanks