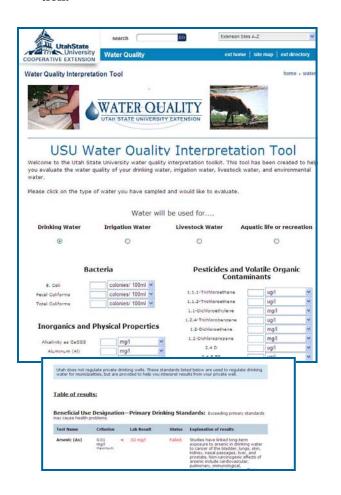
For Help with Interpretation...

• Compare your results with the drinking water standards on the lab report.

For more complete information, use the USU Water Quality Extension Water Testing Toolkit:

http://extension.usu.edu/waterquality /htm/wqtool.

This easy-to-use site provides detailed information to help you interpret all your test results, and provides links for more information.



- If any values exceed the standards, DO NOT DRINK THE WATER!
- If you suspect contamination, identify and remove the source of pollutants.
- Retest to make sure your water is safe!

Keep copies of ALL results to track changes in your drinking water quality over time. Contact USU Water Quality Extension at (435) 797-2580 to obtain a Well Water Records folder.

For more information on:

- Identifying the risk to your well from different contaminant sources
- Techniques to protect your well water from contaminants
- Common drinking water pollutants in Utah

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, how to get your water tested, and where to go to help you interpret your results.



Water is Life: Quality Matters

When to test your well water

New Wells or New Homes:

- Test for bacteria
- Routine water chemistry analysis

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:

• Routine water chemistry analysis.

How do I take a water sample?

Contact the lab <u>BEFORE</u> taking the samples to make sure you use proper containers and procedures. The lab you contact will provide bottles and instructions for each type of test.

A poorly collected sample is worse than no sample at all, because you don't get reliable results and you waste your money!

Contact your Local Health Departments for certified labs in your area: http://www.drinkingwater.utah.gov/partners.htm

Check USU Extension's web page for a list of drinking water certified labs throughout Utah. http://extension.usu.edu/waterquality/htm/homeownerswater

Suggested tests when you think you have a problem

Recurring gastro-intestinal illness You are pregnant, are planning a pregnancy, or have an infant less than six months old Member of household has compromised immune system Drinking water has taste, odor or appearance problems Rotten egg smell or metallic taste Water appears cloudy, frothy, or colored Odor of gasoline or fuel oil Salty taste Color, detergents Odor of gasoline or fuel oil Salty taste Chloride, total dissolved solids, sodium Possible contamination within your home Test For: Household plumbing contains lead Lead, copper, pH Radon in indoor air or region is radon rich Radon Corrosion of pipes, plumbing Stained plumbing fixtures, laundry Iron, copper, manganese Hardness Scaly residues, soaps don't lather Hardness Rapid wear of water treatment equipment Water softener needed to treat hardness Possible outside contamination of your well You rwell does not meet construction codes The area around the wellhead has been flooded or submerged You have a heating oil tank or underground fuel tank near the well that you know has leaked You have a heating oil tank or underground fuel tank near the well that you know has leaked Your septic system absorption field, or your neighbor's, is close to the well (within 100 feet) Nearby areas of intensive agriculture Coal or other mining operations nearby Chloride, sodium, barium, strontium Volatile organic compounds, total dissolved solids, nitrate, pesticides, coliform bacteria		
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Volatile organic compounds, total dissolved solids,	Coal or other mining operations nearby	Metals, pH, corrosion
	Gas drilling operations nearby	Chloride, sodium, barium, strontium
Landfill, factory, or gas station nearby pH, sulfate, chloride, metals	Landfill, factory, or gas station nearby	Volatile organic compounds, total dissolved solids, pH, sulfate, chloride, metals
Seawater or a heavily salted roadway nearby Chloride, total dissolved solids, sodium	·	