

Several Ways To Get Your Water Tested

- Make a request and pay the user fee at 130 Gillespie Street (in the basement of the Historic Court House) any weekday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. These fees vary from \$40 to \$50 depending on what test is performed. An Environmental Health Specialist will collect the sample.
- Contact a local private laboratory. If you choose a private lab, it is recommended that you use a state-certified lab. Individuals usually pick up sample containers from the lab, fill the containers with water to be tested and return the samples to the lab for testing. If you choose to do this, be sure to follow collection, temperature and time directions so that the results are accurate.

Questions about drinking water?



Call the Environmental Health Division of the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, 433-3660

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PO BOX 1829
FAYETTEVILLE NC 28302



How safe is your Well water?

Guidelines for testing new or existing private wells.

How Safe Is Your Well Water?



Public water supplies are tested regularly and customers are notified if contamination is discovered. So, consumers can rely on the water utility and regulators to assure safe drinking water. **However,**

people who have a private water supply assume responsibility for all quality and safety aspects of their water. If a well location, construction, maintenance, or protection is deficient, safe drinking water cannot be guaranteed.

The **Cumberland County Department of Public Health** recommends the following guidelines for assuring safe water from a private drinking water well:

- When you install a new or replacement drinking water well, a permit first must be secured from the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division. A trained professional will assist in choosing a good location for the well, observe the well being grouted, inspect the well-head construction, collect water samples and provide the owner with results from the samples.

- At least once a year, check to see that the well casing is watertight and that the sanitary seal is secure and watertight.
- A licensed well-driller or the land owner (if knowledgeable about wells) should do all the work on the well or well casing. The well should be chlorinated after any service work on the pump, well, or water system.
- Chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil, fuel, paint and any other harmful possible contaminants should be stored at a distance from the well. The well house should not be used for storage.
- Properly seal all abandoned wells to protect the groundwater supply.
- Have water tested annually.



Water Testing:

Effective 1 July 2008, the State of North Carolina requires all new drinking water wells be sampled for: arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride,

lead, iron, magnesium, manganese, mercury, nitrates, nitrites, selenium, silver, sodium, zinc, pH and bacterial indicators. When a new well is installed, the testing is included in the cost of the well permit and will be conducted by the health department.

Once the initial testing is complete, recommendations from the Department of Public Health should be followed for any contaminants found to be above the maximum contaminant level (MCL).

The same sampling is recommended for existing wells and an annual bacteriological testing for total coliform is recommended.

Other triggers for additional or subsequent testing include but are not limited to:

- Pregnancy or very young children (nitrate and nitrite samples are recommended)
- Known or suspected chemical spill has occurred within 100 feet of the well (sample for specific chemical)
- Change in taste, smell or color of water (sample according to taste or smell of water)



For Locations in Cumberland County where groundwater contamination is known to exist and where potential contamination exists:

<http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/safewater/>