

Resources

Public Health Madison & Dane County*

**Please check. Hours below are as of the printing of this brochure and are subject to change.*

HOURS VARY AROUND HOLIDAYS

BEFORE SAMPLING CALL (608) 243-0357

Laboratory - 210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd,
Rm 516B, Madison

Bacteria: Monday, Tuesday 8 am – 4 pm &
Wednesday 8:00am - 2:00pm

Non-metals: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8
am – 4 pm & Thursday 8 am – 1 pm

Metals and atrazine: Monday through Friday 8
am – 4 pm

Environmental Health - 2300 S Park St, Suite
2010, Madison

Bacteria and Non-metals: Tuesday, Wednesday
7:45 am – 8:30 am

Metals and atrazine: Monday through Friday
7:45 am – 4:15 pm

Website:

<http://www.publichealthmdc.com/documents/TestingYourDrinkingWater.pdf>

Private Wells: FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions about Private Wells

How often should private well water be tested?

Drinking water should be tested annually, especially in households including pregnant women, infants and young children.

Who tests the water from private wells?

Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC) Laboratory is certified to test drinking water for bacteria, metals, and other chemicals. *(Address, hours and web information on PHMDS are found on the back of this brochure.)*

What should be tested for?

Private well owners should test their water for bacteria and nitrate/nitrite yearly or sooner if changes in taste or odor are noticed. Nitrite is particularly important to test for in households including pregnant women, infants and young children. Owners can call PHMDS for consultation on the best tests in their area. (608-243-0357).

Who initiates the water testing?

Homeowners of single wells are responsible for obtaining a sample and sending it to PHMDC for testing.

Homeowners of joint wells usually have a well captain who takes on this responsibility.

How do I find out the results of the water testing?

Results are mailed back to the individual submitting the form and the water samples. For joint wells, the test results are retained by the well captain and available for review or copies are distributed to people sharing the joint well.

I recently moved into a single well residence. Can I find out previous test results?

Yes. By calling PHMDS at 608-243-0357 information is available in their current (upgraded) system for the previous 3 to 5 years.

Water has stopped to my residence. Who do I call?

Single residence wells should call a well servicer. Joint well residences should call their well captain.

Should my water be tested for lead?

Lead tests are recommended for homes built before 1930. If you have had your plumbing worked on recently, you may want to consider testing your water for copper. These would be tests for chemicals in the plumbing of single homes only – not well water

What is the sample collection process?

The collection process required by PHMDC includes the following:

- Get sample bottles from the Public Health Laboratory. **Only samples in laboratory bottles will be accepted** because different types of bottles are needed for different types of tests.
- Do not open sample bottles until you are ready to collect the sample.
- Review sampling instructions ahead of time. Some tests require a first draw sample or sanitizing the tap. Instructions and are provided when sample bottles are picked up.
- Complete the information requested on the bottle and on the Chain of Custody form (received from PHMDC).
- Samples may be returned to either the PHMDC Laboratory, or to the Environmental Health Office. This information is listed on the back of the brochure.

What is the fee for testing?

Fees change over time and vary based on which tests are requested. Go the PHMDC's website for current information: <http://www.publichealthmdc.com/environmental/laboratory/water.cfm>

Where can I pick up the kits?

Kits are available at:

Laboratory

210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd,
Room 516B
Madison, WI

If no one is available in room 516B, go to room 507.

Hours for kit pick up are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Dane County Environmental Health

2701 International Lane, Suite 204

Call 243-0357 for pick up arrangements.

Can the kits be mailed?

Yes, in addition to going to the locations on the back of this brochure, kits can be mailed to individuals requesting them.

Additional questions should be directed to personnel at PHMDC directly using information on the back of this brochure.