TESTING FOR WATER QUALITY



UGA EXTENSION

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- Mineral tests
- Organic chemicals.
- Other tests

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- your well does not meet construction codes, including deteriorated/
- family members or guests consuming the well water complain of
- anytime a pregnant woman, woman anticipating pregnancy or infant under
- you are concerned about the presence of lead pipes or soldering in your home
- your water or pipes show signs of deterioration (e.g., water with a strange
- your water stains plumbing f xtures and laundry.
- you notice a water quality change after a heavy rain or an unexplained change
- you spill fertilizers, pesticides, oil, gasoline or other toxic substances on the
- you have experienced some problems near your well (e.g., the area
- you notice a substantial development in your area with land uses that
- you hear about new contamination problems in your area
- your neighbors f nd toxic chemicals in their well water
- you installed a new treatment system or replaced the main component of
- you detected that back-siphoning has occurred due to vacuum break failure
- your water or well system has been contaminated or is suspected to have
- you discovered that your (or your neighbor's) septic system absorption feld
- you detected that your heating oil tank or underground fuel tank near the

Table 1

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Testing Objective	Type of Test	Testing Frequency	Geographical Regions
	Minimum Testing Red	commendations	
,	Bacteria	,	
	Nitrates	,	
	Turbidity and Color	,	1
	Comprehensive Water Chemistry:	,	
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Table 3. Situation-specific water test recommendations.

Situation	Test(s) to be Considered
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Well near the coast or a salt	
High blood pressure in the family Water softener in place	. ,

Adapted from "Water Quality Series: Drinking Water Testing," Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service AGCE-878.

- Samples collected from the wellhead would allow evaluation of source water
- Samples collected from a kitchen faucet would reflect the source water

Variable North Action

Contaminants	MCL	
A. Primary Contaminants		
• Arsenic	1	
• Lead		
•Total Coliform	11	
• E. coli	11	
B. Secondary Contaminants		
• Aluminum	1	
• Iron	1	
Manganese	11.	
• Sulfate	1.,	

http://www.epa.gov

Table 4. EPA drinking water standard for some selected primary and secondary contaminants.

Sources: "Residential Well Water Testing. Private Well Program." State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. "Testing for Water Quality." University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. "Water Quality Testing for Private Wells in New Hampshire." New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Concord, NH. DeSimone, L.A., P.A. Hamilton, R.J. Gilliom. 2009. "Quality of Water from Domestic Wells in Principal Aquifers of the United States, 1991–2004." USG **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES** and the **COLLEGE OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

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