

# Private Well Water and Your Health



## What is in my water?



Depending on the geology and land use in your area, certain minerals or chemicals may be present in your water. Some may cause potentially adverse health effects depending on the concentration, amount and composition of the chemical. Knowing about your surroundings gives you good clues as to what is in your water, but each well can produce water with different qualities. Have you had your well tested to know what is in your water?

## Is it safe to consume well water before it is tested?

The Arizona Department of Health Services recommends that people do NOT use their well water for drinking or cooking before testing.



## Who is responsible for testing private wells?

There are no laws or regulations pertaining to the water quality of private wells, hence there is no agency that is responsible for enforcing water quality standards on private wells. The responsibility to test private wells falls on the individual

consumers of the well water. A *private* well is a well that serves less than 25 people and has less than 15 connections.

## How often should I test my private well?

The Arizona Department of Health Services recommends that private wells be tested for bacterial contamination once a year and for primary metals prior to initial use and after a major event such as a flood, drought, or fire. When was the last time your well was tested for chemicals such as arsenic, copper, lead, bacteria, and nitrates?

## How do I test my well?

You can contact the Arizona Department of Health Services Environmental Laboratory Program at (602) 364-0720 to help you locate laboratories licensed for drinking water analyses and that follow proper laboratory procedures.

### Contact Information and Resources

- Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Environmental Health:  
Phone: (602) 364-3118 or (800) 367-6412
- ADHS Website: [www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov)
- ADHS Environmental Laboratory Program:  
Phone: (602) 364-0720