Well Water Safety: Precautions following a sewage spill

You can't tell if well water is safe to drink based on sight, smell, or taste.
Call a certified laboratory to determine the quality of your well water.
A complete list of certified labs in Arizona can be found on the back of this page.

Sewage-contaminated water may contain fecal matter, bacteria, viruses, chemicals, and other pollutants that can make you sick.

Do Not Use Contaminated Well Water for

drinking cooking brushing teeth washing dishes washing laundry



washing fruits & veggies showering bathing watering the garden giving to pets or livestock

Steps to Take

- use an alternative source of water until your well water has been tested.
- wells, tanks, and pipes should be completely flushed and disinfected.* Following disinfection, test the water to ensure its safety.
- if your water test shows that there are dangerous levels of bacteria, viruses, or other contaminants in your well, contact a well contractor for information on next steps.

*For more information on how to disinfect a well, visit http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/waterquality/disinfection.pdf

If you are on a public water system and have questions about your water quality, contact your public water system provider for guidance.

References

Arizona Labs Certified for Drinking Water Samples

Apache County

Global Environmental Consulting

Four Apache County Road 8235 Concho, AZ 928-537-7755

Coconino County

Nortest Analytical

2400 E. Huntington Drive Flagstaff, AZ 928-774-2312

Inner Basin Environmental

2355 N. Steve Blvd Flagstaff, AZ 928-774-2312

Maricopa County

Aerobiology Laboratory Associates Inc. 2228 W Northern Ave Phoenix, AZ 602-441-3700

Apex Environmental Laboratory

2105 S. 48th Street, Ste 102 Tempe, AZ 602-437-0762

Aquatic Consulting & Testing

1525 W. University Drive, Ste 106 Tempe, AZ 480-921-8044

Fiberquant Analytical Services

5025 S 33rd St Phoenix, AZ (602)-276-6139

Legend Technical Services

17631 N. 25th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 602-324-6100

Statewide Disinfection Services

344 S. Hawes Road Mesa, AZ 480-981-8859

Nestle Waters North America

Phoenix, AZ 602-547-3834

TestAmerica - Cotton Center

4625 E. Cotton Center Boulevard, Ste 189 Phoenix, AZ 602-437-3340

Mohave County

Mohave Environmental Laboratory

2850 Landon Drive, Ste A&B Bullhead City, AZ 928-754-8101

Pima County

Complete Analytical Services 4455 S. Park Avenue, Ste 110 Tucson, AZ 520-884-5811

Legend Technical Services

4585 S. Palo Verde Tucson, AZ 520-327-1234

Turner Laboratories, Inc

2445 N. Coyote Drive, Ste 104 Tucson, AZ 520-882-5880

Yavapai County

Bradshaw Mountain Environmental Inc.

3050 N Windsong Dr. Ste 105 Prescott Valley 928-778-4510

Yuma County

Agri-Trend Lab & Consulting 3337 33rd Place Yuma, AZ 928-317-1127

Fresh Terra Services

1929 South Arizona Avenue Yuma, AZ 928-257-3601

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How much arsenic is too much arsenic?

Arizona Department of Health Services has developed a simple method to determine if arsenic levels are too high by using the color code below.

* ppb is parts per billion and mg/L is milligrams per liter.

Above 200 ppb or 0.2 mg/L This water should **not** be used for drinking or cooking! You should obtain your drinking water from another source immediately, or install and maintain a home treatment device.

11-200 ppb or 0.011-0.2 mg/L

This water will increase the risk of long term or chronic health problems. Don't panic!
Remember, chronic conditions develop over a long time. Make plans to obtain water from another source or install and maintain treatment.

Less than 10 ppb or 0.01 mg/L

It is ok to drink and cook with this water.

Recommended Well Testing Schedule

All New	Once a	Every 5
Wells	Year	Years
 Arsenic Bacteria (total coliform) Fluoride Lead Nitrates Total dissolved solids Uranium 	Bacteria: (total coliform)Nitrates	ArsenicFluorideUranium

In addition to the schedule above, have your well tested if:

- There are known problems with well water in your area
- You have experienced problems near your well (flooding, wildfire, land disturbances)
- You notice a change in water quality (taste, color, odor)
- Anyone in your family has an unexplained illness

