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
https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/index.html
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arsenic Level</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above 200 ppb or 0.2 mg/L</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11–200 ppb or 0.011–0.2 mg/L</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 10 ppb or 0.01 mg/L</td>
<td>It is ok to drink and cook with this water.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended Well Testing Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wells Type</th>
<th>Testing Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All New Wells</td>
<td>Once a Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Arsenic</td>
<td>• Bacteria: (total coliform)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bacteria (total coliform)</td>
<td>• Fluoride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fluoride</td>
<td>• Lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lead</td>
<td>• Nitrates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nitrates</td>
<td>• Total dissolved solids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total dissolved solids</td>
<td>• Uranium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Uranium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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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