

Water Testing Decision Guide

*Testing private well water **annually for coliform bacteria and nitrates** is recommended by local Health Departments, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control.

**In New Jersey, under the Private Well Testing Act, all wells are required to be tested for all of the following contaminants at the time of home sale.
Exceptions: Gross Alpha became a requirement in 2018. PFAS became a requirement in December 2021. Radon in water is not a requirement.

	Coliform Bacteria & Nitrates	Arsenic	Lead	Volatile Organics (62 chemicals)	Radon (in water)	Gross Alpha (uranium and radium)	Hardness (calcium and magnesium)	Iron/Manganese	Copper	PFAS	pH
Testing recommended for <u>public water users</u> (if home was built before 1987):			X								
*Testing recommended once a year for basic potability:	X										
Testing recommended <u>every 5 years</u> (or more if monitoring treatment system):		X		X							
Testing recommended <u>at least once</u> :					X	X					
Testing recommended every 5 years <u>if home was built before 1987</u> :			X								
**Testing recommended if home was <u>bought in the last 4 years</u> :	X										
Testing recommended if there is <u>mineral build up</u> around plumbing fixtures or dry, itchy skin:							X				
Testing recommended if <u>discoloration/rust stains</u> on plumbing fixtures; bitter or metallic <u>taste</u> :								X			
Testing recommended if gastrointestinal issues or <u>blue-green stains</u> on plumbing fixtures:									X		
Testing recommended if main concern is potential <u>carcinogens</u> :		X	X	X	X	X				X	
Testing recommended if home has <u>pregnant people, infants, or children</u> :	X		X					X		X	
Primary contaminants (considered health concerns with standards):	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	
Secondary contaminants (considered aesthetic issues/not typically health concerns):							X	X	X		X

Use this list to track your recommended tests:

Basic Kit:
Coliform Bacteria & Nitrates

Arsenic
Lead
Volatile Organic Compounds
Radon (in water)
Hardness
Gross Alpha
Iron/Manganese
Copper
pH
PFAS