

Required Testing for New Wells

What Well Owners Need to Know | March 2026

Vermont law requires all landowners to test drinking water before using it when they:

- Install a **new** drilled well, shallow well, driven well, spring or other groundwater source, or
- **Deepen** an existing groundwater source.

If you need help understanding this information or need other assistance, contact the Environmental Assistance Office at 802-828-0414 or ANR.DECAssistance@vermont.gov.

What am I required to test the water for?



- You **are required** to test for these contaminants: *E. coli*, total coliform bacteria, arsenic, fluoride, lead (first draw sample only), manganese, nitrate, nitrite, uranium, gross alpha, chloride, sodium, iron and pH.
- You **may be required** to test for other contaminants. Check your Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permit (WW Permit), or ask the designer or well driller you hired or the regional office serving your area:
 - Essex Junction: 802-879-5656
 - Montpelier: 802-828-5034
 - Rutland: 802-289-0603
 - Saint Johnsbury: 802-751-0130
 - Springfield: 802-289-0603

How do I test the water?



- Testing drinking water involves collecting samples and sending them to a certified drinking water lab to get the results.
- You must collect the samples from the **cold-water faucet of the kitchen sink**.
- You can also have the well driller or designer you hired, your town health officer, a hydrogeologist, a certified water specialist, or master plumber collect samples for you.
- **Before you test your water**, the well must be disinfected with chlorine, then flushed to remove the chlorine from the water.
- Be sure to carefully follow **all instructions** from the lab on how to collect samples.



HealthVermont.gov/NewWell
802-489-7339



Which lab should I use and how much does it cost?

- The cost for the test kits varies by lab. Test kits **from the Health Department Lab are \$151**. You can order the test kits online or call 802-338-4724 and ask for the “New Well or Spring Testing Package.”
- You can use another Vermont-certified drinking water lab. If you choose another lab, ask for test kits for the required contaminants listed on the first page and on your WW Permit.

Do I need to submit the results to the state?

- All drinking water test results from Vermont-certified labs are **automatically sent** to the Health Department.
- Check your WW Permit to see if you are **also required to submit your results** to the Department of Environmental Conservation. The designer you hired can submit them for you, or you can submit them online through the ANROnline portal.

Am I required to treat the water?

- You are **not required** to treat the water if the well or spring only connects to your single-family home.
- You **are required** to treat the water if you share your water supply or are supplying water to something that is not a single residential unit.
- If you are a **landlord or rent a property** that provides water from private well or spring, then you must comply with the Division of Fire Safety’s rental housing health and safety code.
- The Health Department **recommends treating your water** if there are high levels of contaminants. You may be eligible for financial assistance.

Do I need to test the water again?

- You are only required to test your water again if your **WW Permit or the WW Program requires** additional water testing.
- Test your water again in six to 12 months to better understand your **long-term water quality**. Then continue testing your water regularly.
- If you are **selling your home**, the Health Department suggests testing your water. Homeowners are required to give the Well Water Testing: A Home Buyer’s Guide to potential buyers.

Go to www.HealthVermont.gov/NewWell for more information and links to resources.