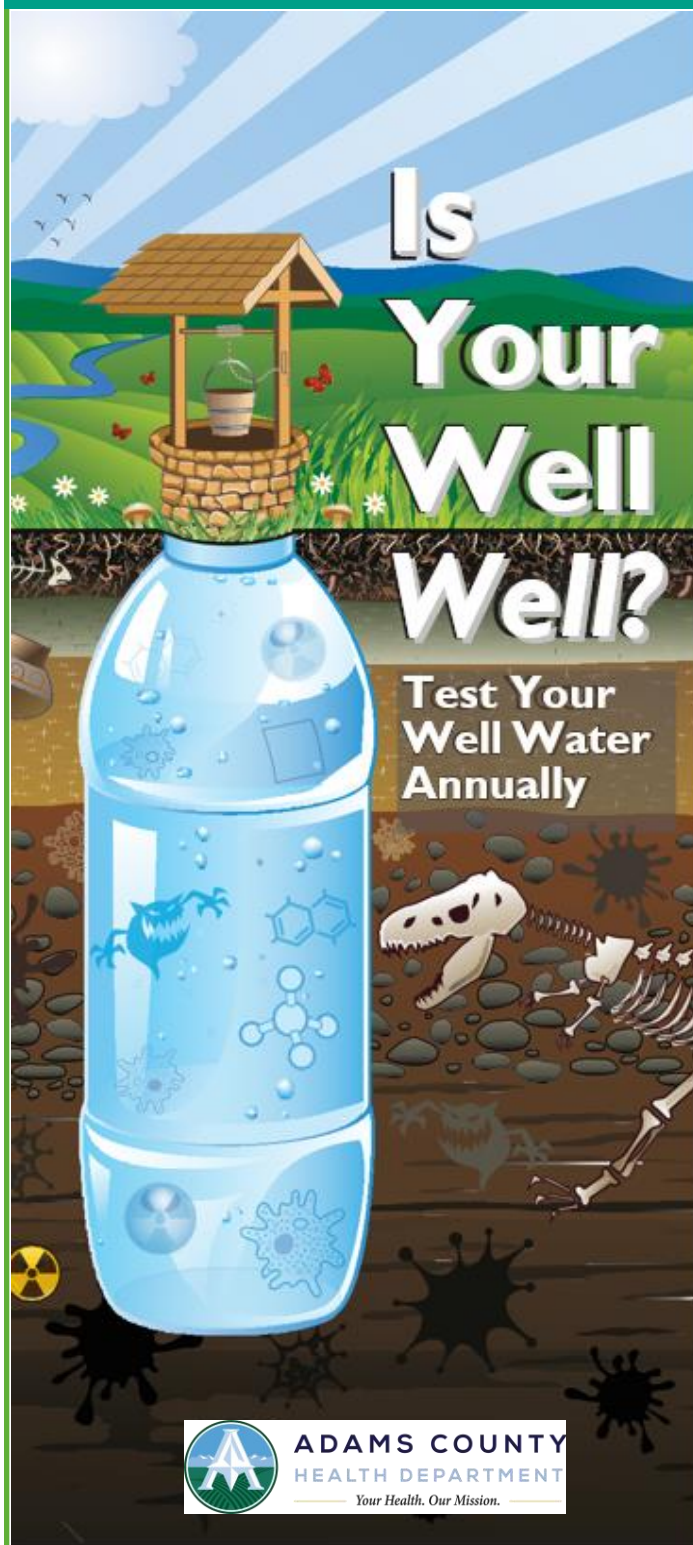


Is Your Well Well?



Whether you are new to owning a well or a long-time well owner, water quality is a persistent concern.

Rural residents often worry about the quality of their water. Some people think of well water as the purest on earth, while others are concerned about the effects of high levels of bacteria and other contaminants.

One thing is known, the very nature of groundwater makes it vulnerable to contamination.

Well Water Quality

While most private wells provide a clean, safe supply of water, natural contaminants and human activity can pollute well water.

Contaminants may possibly come from natural sources, damaged septic systems, fertilizers, excess animal waste, household chemicals, and de-icing road salts.

These contaminants may or may not be filtered out before they reach the groundwater and could cause illness.

Because contaminants in water typically cannot be seen, smelled or tasted, private well water should be tested on a regular basis.

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What should I know about testing my well water?

How often you test your well and what tests should be done will depend on many factors such as where you live, local geology and what activities take place near the source of your well water.

Well Water Testing

Water collection procedures vary depending on the type of test being don't. For reliable test results, use a sample container from a certified laboratory and follow the laboratory instructions exactly.

To obtain supplies and bottles to use for testing, contact the laboratory or call the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/laboratory-services/water-testing/homeowner-water-testing>

Adams County Health Department is also available to help with questions regarding testing and other water quality questions.

Well Water Treatment

If a contaminant is found or suspected in the well water, treatment options are available including disinfection, filters and other more complex systems.

Just remember that treatment systems must be maintained per manufacturers instructions to ensure water quality.



How can I reduce my risk?

There are precautions well owners can take to reduce exposure to potential contaminants:

- Periodically inspect the wellhead for cracks, corrosion, and damage to seals.
- Slope areas surrounding wells to drain surface runoff away from wellhead.
- Keep well casings a minimum of 12 inches above the ground surface.
- Hire a certified well driller or contractor to construct water wells and to conduct maintenance and repairs.
- Avoid mixing or using pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, degreasers, fuels, and other pollutants near the well.
- Never dispose of chemicals, solvents, petroleum products, medicine or pesticides in a septic system or dry well.

Who is at risk?

City residents typically rely on water treatment plant to test and treat drinking water. Private well owners, on the other hand are responsible for testing and treatment of their own water supplies.

Private well owners should test their water annually and, in some cases, more often. More frequent testing may be needed if:

- There is a change in water taste, odor, color, or clarity.
- There has been a recent disaster such as a fire or flood.
- Someone in the household is pregnant or nursing.
- There are unexplained gastrointestinal issues in the household.

Additional Questions?

Contact Adams County Health Department at 303.288.6816.

