



Department of Public Health

Monroe County, New York

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Recommendations for Private Well Testing

Water quality testing is important for both new and existing drinking water wells. Unlike public water, which undergoes strict and regular testing in conformance with state and federal regulations, private drinking water wells are not regulated. The Monroe County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) has conducted numerous well tests throughout Monroe County. Based upon our findings, and absent state or federal requirements, we have developed the following recommendations to assure well water is safe:

- All wells should be tested every year for: coliform bacteria, nitrate, sodium and turbidity (cloudiness).
- All wells should be tested once for arsenic. Parts of Monroe County have tested high for arsenic. Testing will determine if you live in an area affected by arsenic and the need for further testing or other protective actions.

All samples should be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the New York State Department of Health Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) for testing drinking water. A current listing of ELAP laboratories is available from the MCDPH and may be accessed at <http://www.wadsworth.org/labcert/elap/elap.html>. The MCDPH provides this service and will collect water samples from your home and transport them for testing at the Monroe County Environmental Laboratory according to the following 2009 fee schedule:

Trip/Collection Fee	\$35.00
Coliform Bacteria	\$35.00
Arsenic, Nitrate, Sodium, Turbidity	\$45.00

Additional tests may be appropriate if there are potential sources of contamination, such as: oil storage facilities, junkyards, gasoline stations, landfills, industry, and active or historic agricultural use. We are available to discuss the need for such additional testing.

**For more information on private well testing,
contact the Monroe County Department of Public Health
at 753-5057**

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