



Well Water Wise (3W) Week

May 5-10, 2024

The Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services (PHES) Department, in cooperation with multiple municipalities and county agencies, is sponsoring the 22nd annual *Well Water Wise (3W)* week promotion happening May 5-10, 2024. The goal of this promotion is to encourage residents to check the safety of their private well water. For information on private well testing go to the Anoka County Environmental Services [Well Water Testing](#) webpage or call 763-324-4260.

County residents may pick up a well water test kit at participating city and township offices (listed below) or from Environmental Services, Suite 600 of the Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Avenue in Anoka. Samples are collected by the residents and then dropped off at the Environmental Services desk in Anoka County Government Center. Water samples can be submitted to the county's Environmental Services Unit for analysis every Monday from 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to noon. However, during Well Water Wise Week we will be accepting submissions every day of the week! See below for more details.

DURING 3W WEEK, samples can be submitted Monday through Thursday (8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.) and Friday (before 11:30 AM). The well water testing kit includes details about water collection and submission. A laboratory fee of \$17.00 will be charged for each test of coliform bacteria or of nitrate-nitrogen analysis.

Unlike public water utilities, private well water is not treated with chlorine to prevent bacteria growth. Simply looking at the appearance of drinking water is not a reliable indicator of whether it is safe to drink. An annual coliform bacteria test is a good way to ensure that your drinking water continues to be free of bacteria.

Nitrate-nitrogen occurs naturally in groundwater and wells at concentrations below one milligram per liter (mg/L). Nitrogen can seep into private wells from a variety of sources including septic systems, nitrogen fertilizers, animal feedlots, and landfills. The Minnesota Department of Health has established a Health Risk Limit (HRL) for nitrate-nitrogen at 10 mg/L. Levels above that point may pose an immediate risk to infants and pregnant women.

The testing of private wells used for drinking water is the responsibility of individual owners. There are an estimated 25,000 private wells in service throughout Anoka County. Only a small percentage of them are tested annually. For more information about well water testing, call the Environmental Services Unit at 763-324-4260.

Test Kit Pick-Up Locations

Pick up a well water testing kit at participating agencies during their standard business hours:

- Anoka County Government Center
- Environmental Services Desk
- City of Andover, City Hall
- City of Bethel, City Hall
- City of Blaine, City Hall
- City of Blaine, Public Works
- City of Centerville, City Hall
- City of Columbus, City Hall
- City of East Bethel, City Hall
- City of Ham Lake, City Hall
- City of Lino Lakes, City Hall
- Linwood Township, Township Hall
- City of Nowthen, City Hall
- City of Oak Grove, City Hall
- City of Ramsey, City Hall
- City of St. Francis, City Hall

Resources

The most up to date information, along with other water-related information and resources can be found at the websites below:

[Anoka County Water Website](https://www.anokacountymn.gov/2009/Well-Water-Testing)
(<https://www.anokacountymn.gov/2009/Well-Water-Testing>)

[Know the Flow](http://www.knowtheflow.us) (www.knowtheflow.us)

[Water Testing Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Questions?

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding private wells and/or well water testing to Michael Wagner. He can be reached via the contact information below:

Phone: 763-324-4207

Email: michael.wagner@anokacountymn.gov



Anoka County Environmental Services
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763-324-4260
www.anokacounty.us