

# How do I know which test to perform?

*You can choose to check for all three contaminants, or just one or two.*

Contaminant	Description	Consider this test if:
<p><b>Bacteria:</b> coliform &amp; E. coli</p> <p>\$20</p>	<p>Coliform bacteria occurs naturally in soil and does not cause illness. Water from a well properly located and constructed should be free of coliform bacteria. The presence of coliform indicates that the well is vulnerable to more serious contamination.</p> <p>E. coli bacteria comes from the fecal matter of warm blooded animals and can cause serious health problems.</p> <p>Bacteria, if present, can often be removed by chlorinating the well.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have never tested your well water.</li> <li>You have not tested your well water for bacteria in the last 12 months.</li> <li>You have not tested your well water for bacteria in March.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nitrates:</b></p> <p>\$15</p>	<p>Nitrate occurs naturally in plants. We find nitrates in groundwater due to land application of manure, agricultural fertilizers, septic systems, and lawn chemicals. It is common in agricultural areas in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties.</p> <p>Babies and pregnant women are especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of high nitrates, which can be removed with Reverse Osmosis systems (NOT boiling).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have never tested your well for nitrates.</li> <li>Previous tests indicated nitrates higher than 2ppm.</li> <li>There are young children or pregnant women frequently in the home.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Arsenic:</b></p> <p>\$20</p>	<p>Arsenic is a naturally occurring element in soil and bedrock formations. Through testing programs like this, we have found that arsenic is more common in local drinking water than previously known.</p> <p>Long-term exposure increases the risk for cancer and other disease. It can be removed with Distillation or Reverse Osmosis systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You've never had your well tested for arsenic.</li> <li>Previous tests indicated the presence of arsenic.</li> </ul>