

## MAINTENANCE & CARE

- Be sure the well cover, cap, and casing are in good repair and install a locking well cap.
- Keep hazardous chemicals like paint, fertilizer, pesticides, gasoline, and motor oil away from your well.
- Check your well each month for visible signs of cracking or corrosion.
- Keep your septic system working properly. Have it checked each year and pumped every 3-5 years.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides properly.
  - Do not mix them near the well so you don't contaminate your water source.
- Have your water tested every few years for bacteria and metals and minerals which include nitrates.

## COMMON TASTE, SMELL & APPEARANCE PROBLEMS IN WELL WATER

- Iron and manganese (stains), hydrogen sulfide (sulfur smell) and hardness (scaling)



Call your local DHEC EQC office if you have any questions.

### UPSTATE

Greenwood,  
Abbeville, Laurens,  
Saluda, Edgefield,  
and McCormick  
**864-223-0333**

Anderson and  
Oconee  
**864-260-5569**

Greenville and  
Pickens  
**864-241-1090**

Cherokee,  
Spartanburg, and  
Union:  
**864-596-3800**

### MIDLANDS

Fairfield, Lexington,  
Newberry, and  
Richland  
**803-896-0620**

Lancaster, Chester,  
and York  
**803-285-7461**

Sumter, Kershaw,  
Lee, and Clarendon  
**803-778-6548**

Aiken, Allendale,  
Bamberg, Barnwell,  
Calhoun, &  
Orangeburg  
**803-641-7670**

### COASTAL

Chesterfield,  
Darlington, Dillon,  
Florence, Marion,  
and Marlboro  
**843-661-4825**

Georgetown, Horry,  
and Williamsburg  
**843-238-4378**

Berkeley,  
Charleston, and  
Dorchester  
**843-953-0150**

Beaufort, Colleton,  
Hampton, and  
Jasper  
**843-846-1030**



[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

*We promote and protect the health  
of the public and the environment.*



*caring for your*  
**WELL**

**TESTING & MAINTENANCE**



[WWW.SCDHEC.GOV/WELLWATER](http://WWW.SCDHEC.GOV/WELLWATER)

## RESPONSIBILITY OF TESTING

If your drinking water comes from your well, it is your responsibility to test the well water for contaminants.

## WHO CAN TEST YOUR WELL WATER

DHEC or any DHEC certified commercial lab can test a sample of your well water. For a list of certified labs, call (803) 896-0970.

## WATER TESTING & FEES

- Fees are charged for analysis of water samples submitted to DHEC or commercial lab.
- Exceptions may apply based on your ability to pay and under certain conditions. Please call your local DHEC office or visit [www.scdhec.gov/wellwater](http://www.scdhec.gov/wellwater) to learn more.
- DHEC accepts water samples to be tested for bacteria only on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Samples being tested for bacteria need to be at the lab within 30 hours after collection.
- Samples from public water systems or lakes, rivers, and streams will **not** be accepted.
- For more information:
  - Call 1-888-761-5989 (Toll Free)
  - Visit [www.scdhec.gov/wellwater](http://www.scdhec.gov/wellwater)

## WATER TESTING & FEES CONT.

**BACTERIA\*** \$20 per sample

**METALS & MINERALS** \$50 per sample  
(pH, alkalinity, nitrates, chloride, calcium, magnesium, hardness, manganese, iron, copper, lead, and zinc.)

**OTHER MINERALS** \$25 per test  
(Fluoride, sodium, arsenic, etc.)

**OTHER ANALYSES** by request; costs vary  
(pesticides, herbicides, PCBs, etc.)

\* Initial sample for a new well is included in the application fee.

## HOW TO TEST YOUR WELL WATER

For the bacteria test pick up a sample kit at any DHEC office ([www.scdhec.gov/regions](http://www.scdhec.gov/regions)).

## COMMON CONTAMINANTS & HEALTH CONCERNS

### BACTERIA (FECAL COLIFORM)

- Can cause immediate health effects.
- If family members or visitors are frequently getting sick with vomiting and diarrhea, you should stop drinking your water and test your well for bacteria.
- Make sure you drink and cook from an alternative water source until your well is properly disinfected and retested.
- Call DHEC's local office (see back) if you have questions about disinfecting your well.

## NITRATES

- Nitrates reduce your blood's ability to carry oxygen and at high levels can cause serious health problems for persons in poor health.
- Infants are most at risk and can get sick or die if high levels of nitrate are in drinking water.
- Agricultural areas tend to have the highest levels of nitrates due to fertilizer application and animal manure. Septic systems can also be a source.
- EPA standard for nitrate in water is 10 mg/l (milligrams per liter).
- A reverse osmosis filtering system can remove nitrates from your water.

### RADIOACTIVITY

- Long-term exposure to radioactive substances can increase your risk of developing certain types of cancer.
- Radium, radon and uranium are elements that occur naturally in rocks and are sometimes in well water.
- The EPA standard for uranium in water is 30 µg/L (micrograms per liter) and radium is 5 pCi/L (picocuries per liter).
- There is no standard for radon in drinking water.
- A reverse osmosis or ion exchange filtering system can remove radionuclides from water.

### ARSENIC

- Long-term exposure to arsenic can increase your risk of developing certain types of cancer.
- Arsenic occurs naturally in rocks and is sometimes in well water.
- EPA standard for arsenic in drinking water is 10 µg/L (micrograms per liter).
- A reverse osmosis filtering system or ion exchange filter system can remove arsenic from your water.