



Water Testing Guidance for Private Well Users

October 2024

NHDES recommends private well users and buyers of homes with private wells test their water.

What to test for:

Arsenic

Bacteria: Total Coliform and E. Coli

Chloride

Copper (stagnant and flushed samples)

Fluoride

Hardness

Iron

Lead (stagnant and flushed samples)

Manganese

Nitrate

Nitrite

pH

Radon

Sodium

Uranium

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): PFHxS, PFNA, PFOA and PFOS*

Be Well Informed webtool

Want help understanding your water test results? Enter your results into [Be Well Informed](#) to get info on health effects and water treatment.

When to test:

Home buyers: Test water before purchasing a home with a private well, if the seller has not already provided a recent water test. It's common for well water to have contaminants above health limits, and water treatment or well upgrades may be needed to ensure safe drinking water. If the home has a water treatment system, the water test can be done after treatment to verify the quality of the treated water.

Private well users: Test for bacteria, nitrate and nitrite every year. The remainder of the list should be tested for every 3-5 years. Water quality can change over time, so periodic water testing is recommended, even if the water was tested when you purchased the home. *PFAS sampling can be costly. If initial PFAS sampling reveals no PFAS, and household budget does not allow for re-testing every 3-5 years, it is acceptable to wait longer, especially if surrounding land uses do not change.

After a treatment system is installed: Test the treated water to make sure the treatment is effective. Service and maintain the treatment system and test the treated water every 3-5 years to ensure it is continuing to provide safe drinking water.

*NHDES has been sampling private wells for PFAS since 2016. Private well users can check if NHDES has sampled their well, or request NHDES to do so. On the [NH PFAS Response](#) webpage under "How Can We Help You Today?", click on "Sampling Dashboard" for existing samples and "Private Well Testing Request Form" to request sampling.

Laboratories accredited by the New Hampshire Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program that serve New Hampshire private well users:**

LABORATORY NAME	PHONE	ADDRESS	DROP OFF LOCATIONS IN OR NEAR NH	WEBSITE
Endyne Inc.	(603) 678-4891	56 Etna Rd, Suite F, Lebanon, NH	Lebanon, NH Brattleboro, Vt. St. Johnsbury, Vt.	endynelabs.com
Eurofins Environmental Testing Eastern Analytical	(603) 228-0525	51 Antrim Avenue, Concord, NH	Concord	easternanalytical.com
Eurofins Portsmouth	(603) 436-2001	124 Heritage Ave Unit 16 Portsmouth, NH	Portsmouth	eurofins.com
Granite State Analytical	(603) 432-3044	22 Manchester Road, Derry, NH	10 NH locations including North Conway, Derry, Amherst, Tilton, Windham, Hampstead	granitestateanalytical.com
Nelson Analytical LLC	(603) 622-0200	490 E. Industrial Park Drive	Manchester Canterbury	nelsonanalytical.com
Nelson Analytical Maine	(207) 467-3478	120 York Street, Kennebunk, ME	Kennebunk	nelsonanalytical.com
Nelson Analytical Keene	(603) 357-2577	103 Monadnock Highway, North Swanzey, NH	Swanzey	eai-labs.com
New England Radon Ltd.	(603) 893-4260	11A Industrial Way, Unit 3 Salem, NH	Salem	newenglandradon.com
NHDHHS Public Health Laboratories	(603) 271-3445	29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH	Concord	dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/environmental-health-and-you/water-testing
Seacoast Analytical Services LLC	(603) 868-1457	72 Pinkham Road, Lee, NH	Lee Epping	seacoastanalytical.com

** Lab list updated 9/20/2024. For up-to-date information, see NHDES' [Accredited Laboratory Search](#). For questions related to accredited laboratories, contact: [New Hampshire Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program](#), 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095; [\(603\) 271-2998](tel:(603)271-2998) / [\(603\) 271-5314](tel:(603)271-5314); nhelap@des.nh.gov.