

DRINKING WATER

Private Water Sources

Many Kentuckians depend on wells, springs, and cisterns as their main source of household drinking water. It is up to the private water user, utilizing wells, springs and cisterns, to **test on a regular basis** to ensure the safety of their drinking water.

Water is supplied from two sources: groundwater and surface water. Because groundwater moves underground, activities or occurrences miles away can affect a well or spring. Surface activities, such as building construction, agriculture, manufacturing, mining and septic systems, are likely to affect surface waters very quickly. They can affect groundwater sources overtime.

Know What You Drink



UK Suggests; Test Your Drinking Water Yearly.

Basic Household Water Test

- **Total Coliform Bacteria**

How safe water is from microorganisms. Generally from fecal waste of humans and animals.

- **Acidity (pH)**

pH scale measures the acidity of the water.

- **Dissolved Solids**

Total dissolved solids are in-

dicator of water quality.

- **Hardness**

The amount of minerals in the water, specifically calcium and magnesium.

- **Nitrate**

From human activities: fertilizers, home, garden, septic systems, animal feed lots



Sampling is Easy

Testing for Water Problems You Observe In Your Home

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Test For</u>
Stained fixtures & clothes	red or brown reddish-brown slime	iron iron bacteria
Off-color	cloudy black	turbidity hydrogen sulfide, manganese
Unusual taste and odor	rotten egg smell metallic taste septic, musty, earthy	hydrogen sulfide pH, corrosive index, copper or lead total coliform bacteria
Corrosive water	deposits, pitting	pH, corrosion index, copper or lead



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