



What do I do if I think my well has a water quality issue?

Consider a water quality test if the water from your faucets looks, smells or tastes unusual. If anyone in your household has a persistent stomach illness, a water quality problem might be the source. Here are the next steps to check your water quality.

Contact a Local Water Testing Facility

Contact a certified water laboratory in your area and request a drinking water analysis. Some health departments will test domestic well water for E. coli and coliform bacteria but do not do a full water quality array.

Collect a Water Sample

Ask your water testing laboratory how to collect a water sample. A certified testing facility will supply you with a sterile bag. Follow the laboratory's directions for collecting the water so as not to contaminate your sample.

Wait for the Results

If you suspect an E. coli or coliform contamination, consider using alternate sources of water or boiling water for drinking, cooking, making ice, preparing food, bathing, or washing clothes.

Disinfecting Your Water Well

If the test is positive for E. coli or coliform bacteria, you will need to disinfect your well. Chlorination treatments are the most common way to do this. You can have your well driller or pump installer chlorinate the well, or you can do it yourself. For information on how to disinfect your well, go to tdlr.texas.gov/wwd/welldisinfection.pdf. Retest the water after treatment to ensure the well is properly disinfected. If disinfection attempts fail, contact your well driller, pump installer or local health department for further assistance.

Additional Resources

Texas Well Owner Network twon.tamu.edu

Environmental Protection Agency epa.gov/privatewaterwells

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality tceq.texas.gov

Texas Dept. of Licensing & Regulation, Water Well Drillers & Pump Installers tdlr.texas.gov/wwd/wwd.htm

National Groundwater Association ngwa.org

