

5-10 Year Test Kit



Private Well Water 5 - 10 Year Test Kit Instructions

This kit will test for:

Substances you should test for each year, including •Nitrate, •Nitrite, •Color, •Turbidity (cloudy water), •Sodium, •Chloride and •Coliform Bacteria

Substances you should test for every 3-5 years, including •Fluoride, •Iron, •Lead, •Manganese, •Sulfate, •Cadmium, •Calcium, •Copper, •Zinc and tests for substances that can ruin appliances and plumbing, including •pH, •Alkalinity, •Total Dissolved Solids, •Hardness, and •Specific Conductance

Substances you should test for every 5-10 years including •VOCs (**V**olatile **O**rganic **C**ompounds) and •MtBE

- **The test kit includes:** 1) a Metals Testing Bottle, 2) 5 Glass Vials, 3) Two Big Jugs, and 4) a Sterile Jar. Use the containers in this order.
- **We're here to answer your questions,** test your water in our State Health Lab, and help you understand your results.

1

Get ready before you fill the containers

Step 1: Have on hand:

- ✓ A ballpoint pen or pen with ink that will not smear if wet.
- ✓ A cooler with ice or plastic ice bricks to bring water samples to the lab. If you use regular ice, seal it tightly in a plastic bag.
- ✓ Fresh household bleach, not perfumed. If you already have a bottle, check when it expires. If the date has passed, get a new bottle.
- ✓ Protective gloves, like the kind you might wear to wash dishes. These protect your skin from acid used to preserve the water samples in the white-capped vials, and from bleach used to sterilize the tap.
- ✓ A small household container wide enough to hold a cup of liquid under your tap, such as a measuring cup or clean food container.

Step 2: Choose a day to test. Collect the sample the morning of delivery. The lab accepts samples Monday - Thursday between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Step 3: Read all instructions before you take water samples. Use the pictures to guide you.

over »

Questions?

Contact: Program Specialist, Private Well Program, Rhode Island Department of Health

Email: DOH.RIDWQ@health.ri.gov **Tel:** 401-222-6867. Ask to be connected to the Private Well Program.



Sample Label

Date/Time: 3/23/2016 4:35pm
Owners Name: Jane and John Doe
Collection Point: Kitchen Tap



Filling the Metals Testing Bottle



Filling the Glass Vials



Fill until the water forms a round 'dome' at the top.

Step 4: Choose ONE water tap to sample — one that is used often for drinking or cooking water. This is most likely a kitchen tap.

Step 5: Fill out the labels on all 7 containers as shown in the example. Please PRINT so the lab can read the labels. Use an ink pen that will not smear or “run” if wet.

② Collect your 1st water sample in the Metals Testing Bottle

Step 1: Unscrew the lid of the bottle, holding the bottle in one hand and the cap in the other. Do not touch the inside of the cap with your fingers and do not let the neck of the bottle touch the tap.

Step 2: Hold the bottle under the tap and turn the cold water tap on to collect the first water. Fill the bottle up to the shoulder. Do not let the bottle overflow.

Step 3: Replace the bottle cap firmly.

Step 4: Turn off the water.

③ Collect your 2nd water sample in the 3 White-capped Glass Vials

DO NOT OPEN the black-capped vials. You must return them unopened. The lab uses them to compare to water you put into the white-capped vials. Keep them with the white-capped vials at all times.

Step 1: Take all 5 vials to the tap where you’ll collect your sample.

Step 2: Turn on the cold water and let it run for about **5 minutes**. Then, **slow the water flow to a thin stream** before collecting the sample.

Step 3: Put on the protective gloves.

Step 4: Slowly and carefully unscrew the top of one white-capped vial, making sure the white center of the cap does not fall out. Hold the bottle in one hand and the cap in the other. Do not let your fingers touch the inside of the cap. Do not let the top of the vial touch the tap.

Step 5: Slowly fill one white-capped vial until the water forms a round ‘dome’ at the top. DO NOT fill and then empty the vial. The acid used to preserve the sample will run out, making the sample useless.

continue »

Questions?

Contact: Program Specialist, Private Well Program, Rhode Island Department of Health

Email: DOH.RIDWQ@health.ri.gov **Tel:** 401-222-6867. Ask to be connected to the Private Well Program.

UPDATED 2021

Step 6: Holding the vial upright, screw on the lid.

Step 7: Turn vial upside down and tap gently. If you see bubbles in the vial, uncapped and add more water to form a round dome at the top.

Step 8: Repeat Steps 4-7 using the other 2 white-capped vials.

Step 9: Turn off the water.



Filling the Big Jug



Soaking the tap with the bleach solution



Filling the Sterile Jar

4 Collect your 3rd water sample in the Big Jugs

Step 1: Slowly turn the cold water on to get a steady pencil-size stream of water from the faucet.

Step 2: Unscrew one jug cap. Hold the jug in one hand and the cap in the other. Do not touch the inside of the cap.

Step 3: Fill the jug with cold water. Do not let the rim or neck of the jug touch the tap, and do not let the jug overflow.

Step 4: Replace the jug cap.

Step 5: Repeat Steps 2-4 using the other jug.

Step 6: Turn off the water.

5 Collect your 4th water sample in the Sterile Jar

Step 1: Sterilize the tap with bleach. Here's how:

- If you took off the protective gloves, put them back on.
- Mix one cap of fresh bleach with one cup of water in the small household container that fits under your tap.
- Hold the container under tap — so the tap soaks in the solution for 2 minutes.

Step 2: Again, slowly turn the cold water on to get a steady pencil-size stream of water from the faucet.

- Let the water run for about 5 minutes before collecting this last water sample.

Step 3: Unscrew the jar cap. Hold the jar in one hand and the cap in the other. Do not touch the inside of the cap or the inside of the jar.

over »

Questions?

Contact: Program Specialist, Private Well Program, Rhode Island Department of Health

Email: DOH.RIDWQ@health.ri.gov **Tel:** 401-222-6867. Ask to be connected to the Private Well Program.

UPDATED 2021

Step 4: Fill the jar with cold water up to the 100 ml marked line.

Do not let the rim or neck of the jar touch the tap.
And, do not let the jar overflow.

Step 5: Replace the jar cap and **turn off** the water.

⑥ Finish up

- **Pour the bleach solution down the drain.** It will not hurt a septic system. Take off the protective gloves.
- **Recheck the labels on all containers.** Make sure you have filled them out so they are clear and complete.
- **Put all containers in your refrigerator** until you take them to the lab. Remember, you need to drop them off the same day they were collected.
- **Fill out the Lab Order Form.** The 5 - 10 year Test Kit costs \$410.00 total. If you are doing other tests in addition, find the prices on the Order Form. Add all costs and show the total at the bottom of the Form. Write a check or money order made out to “The General Treasurer, State of RI” for the total amount of all the water tests you request.
- **Drop off your water samples with the Order Form and payment.** Place the containers in your cooler with ice to transport them to the lab. Remember to seal regular ice in a plastic bag so it won’t leak water into the cooler.

Questions?

UPDATED 2021

Contact: Program Specialist, Private Well Program, Rhode Island Department of Health

Email: DOH.RIDWQ@health.ri.gov **Tel:** 401-222-6867. Ask to be connected to the Private Well Program.