

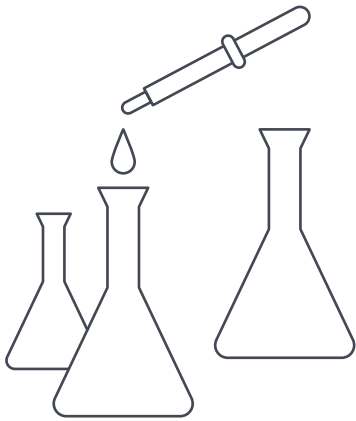


# Test Before You Treat!

## Private Well Tips



Before you buy a filter or treatment system for your private well, you should always test the water first.



- Many contaminants that could be in your well water have no color, smell, or taste. The only way to know they are there is to test the water.
- If you get the wrong treatment system, it can cause new problems or make other problems even worse.
- There is no treatment system that will fix all problems at once. You need to know what your specific issues are first to safely treat them.
- Treatment and filters can cost a lot of money, and you will have to buy replacement parts and refills to keep the system working. Testing will help you decide which one to buy or if you even need one at all.
- Testing can tell you if the filter or treatment system is doing what you need it to or if it's having problems.

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### Be an informed well owner.

You can test your well water any time you are worried that it may not be safe to drink. Even if you have no concerns about your well water, there are tests that should be done once a year, every three to five years, and every five to 10 years. Be sure to use a state-certified lab and keep copies of all water test results. Testing recommendations and a list of certified testing labs are posted on RIDOH's website. See our *Are you a smart well owner?* tip sheet at [www.riwelltesting.org](http://www.riwelltesting.org).

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### Be a smart consumer.

When you have your water test results, you can decide if you need to buy a filter or a treatment system. RIDOH recommends that you call at least three filtration experts and avoid at-home tests, suspicious discounts, or companies who do not list their products' safety information. See our *Need to treat your well water?* tip sheet at [www.riwelltesting.org](http://www.riwelltesting.org).

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### Stay connected.

If you have any questions about water testing or treatment, call or email RIDOH's Center for Drinking Water Quality. We can answer your questions, provide resources, or talk with you about options. Call **401-222-6867** or email [DOH.RIDWQ@health.ri.gov](mailto:DOH.RIDWQ@health.ri.gov).