public health agency for information on chlorinating your well. If chlorination doesn't solve the coliform problem contact a well driller or pump installer (check the Yellow Pages) for help.

If a high level of nitrate is present in your well, contact a well driller or plumber for assistance.

When should I test my well water?

You should test your well water every year for coliform bacteria. If you are pregnant or have infants under six months of age, you should also check for nitrate.

You can make the testing part of your normal springtime routine, like planting flowers and resetting your clock for daylight savings time. Water should also be tested if you notice any change in taste, odor or appearance or after flooding.

Fall is also a good time to test. Just be sure to make it an annual habit. It's important to test well water annually because even if your test results are O.K. one year, that doesn't mean your well won't have contamination problems in the future.

Contact:

JR's Inspection Services
2415 Stonebridge Cr, Suite #21
West Bend, WI 53095
262-629-9925

For All of Your Water Testing Needs

State of Wisconsin
Safe Drinking Water Certification For:
POWTS Inspector #1244554
POWTS Maintainer #1244554
DNR #8102

Technical information provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center.

TEST YOUR WELL WATER

ANNUALLY

Take care of what's important to YOU

Why should I test my well water?

Safe, clean water is one of the most important substances in our lives - for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning. Municipal water systems test their water regularly to ensure it's safe, but it's up to private well owners to test their well water annually. It's one of the simplest things you can do to take care of the health and well being of yourself and those you love.

What tests should I have done on my well water?

Two very important tests well owners should have are for coliform bacteria and nitrate.

COLIFORM BACTERIA are microorganisms that can be found in human and animal waste, in soil, on vegetation and in surface water runoff. If coliform bacteria are present in your well water, then other bacteria, viruses and parasites that can make you sick may also be present. Hence, the test is used as an indicator of how sanitary the well water is.

Coliform bacteria can enter groundwater through poorly constructed or unsealed wells, fractured rock outcroppings, sinkholes, coarse soils and quarries. Wells also can be contaminated by insects crawling up under well caps and wells drawing in soil particles through air vents.

If there are infants less than six months of age or pregnant women drinking well water, you should also test for NITRATE.

Nitrate interferes with the blood's ability to carry oxygen, thus causing symptoms of suffocation or "blue baby syndrome" in infants. This is a very serious medical condition. Pregnant women also should avoid drinking water high in nitrate because recent research suggests connections between high nitrate water and birth defects in miscarriages.

Nitrate can enter drinking water from many sources, including fertilizer, animal feedlots, sewage drain fields, municipal and industrial wastewater, urban drainage and decaying plant debris. Soil types, bedrock structure and the direction of groundwater flow also may influence whether nitrate enters into wells.

The laboratory performing your well water tests also can recommend other tests that you might want to have run on your water depending on your well's location, age and nearby land use.

What do I do if the tests show there are problems with my well water?

If test results show you have coliform in your well water, a second sample should be taken to confirm the first result. (Make sure you use proper sampling techniques.) If after re-testing, results still indicate your well water has coliform, contact the laboratory or your local