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Bacteria, Nitrate, & Arsenic Testing

When selling real estate that includes a domestic well, property owners are required to test the water for nitrate and total coliform bacteria. Domestic wells are those used for drinking and other household purposes. Beginning January 1st, 2010, property sellers will be also required to test their well water for arsenic (in addition to nitrate and total coliform bacteria). New requirements are due to amendments to the Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 448.271(1). Samples must be analyzed by an accredited laboratory.

If you are testing due to a real estate sale it is often preferred that we do a service call and draw the sample as a 3rd party to the sale. If you would like us to come draw the sample, please call us and schedule an appointment.

Water samples must be taken Tuesday or Thursday morning of and at the store by 11:00 AM that same day. Water tests must be taken in sterile lab sample bottles provided by the lab and tests must be paid for before they are sent to the lab. Bacteria, nitrate, and arsenic tests must be taken in their respective bottles.

Bacteria, Nitrate, & Arsenic Sample Procedure

1. Choose a source to draw the sample from as close to the wellhead as possible. Try to avoid taking the test from a faucet in the house or anywhere far from the wellhead.
2. Disinfect the outside and any exposed areas of the hose bib that the sample will be drawn from. Either do this by using alcohol disinfectant or heat. If heat is used be cautious to melting any part of your plumbing.
3. Run the water until the lines are flushed and water is being pumped from the well.
4. Bacteria - Remove the lid from the clear sterile 120ml sample bottle, being careful not to set the lid down, touch the inside of the bottle or lid, or contaminate the bottle in any way. Fill the bottle to the top line (120ml) and carefully recap the bottle.
5. Arsenic / Nitrates – Remove the lid from an opaque 250ml sample bottle, being careful not to set the lid down, touch the inside of the bottle or lid, or contaminate the bottle in any way. Fill the bottle full and carefully recap the bottle. Fill a separate bottle for nitrate and arsenic as they each require their own bottle.
6. Bring the samples to our store by 11:00 AM. We will assist you in filling out the forms and collect payment. If results are to be delivered for public water systems you will need to have your PWS number.

Prices

Bacteria Test - \$50.00

Nitrate Test - \$40.00

Arsenic Test (Standard 15 Working Days) - \$50.00

Arsenic Test (Expedited 5 Working Days) - \$100.00

Sample Collection and Pick Up Fee (Service call) - \$85.00