

# Frequently Asked Questions on: Well and Drinking Water



Does the State of Michigan monitor my drinking water if I have a private well?

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**NO**—Once your private well water system is installed, you are the owner of that system. As such, the state does not test your private well, so it is important that you know how to maintain and test your groundwater.

How frequently should I test my drinking water?

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It depends on the contaminant. Every year you should test for coliform bacteria and *E. coli*, nitrate, and nitrate. Every three to five years you should test for arsenic, copper, and lead. [From the Department of Health and Human Services](#)

How do I maintain my well?

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- Know the location of your well so you can easily get to your wellhead for pump replacement.
- Limit use of pesticides and fertilizers near the well head and keep it clear of leaves, mulch, dirt and snow.
- Maintain your septic system properly to prevent contaminants from getting in your groundwater.
- Test your water yearly for bacteria and routinely for other contaminants.
- Have an annual inspection for flow testing and visual checks of well components.

What are the different types of filter systems?

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- **Water Filters** are point of use filters that reduce contaminants when the water is used. Examples include faucet mounts, pitches, and reverse osmosis.
- **Water Treatment options** are point of entry filters that reduce contaminants when water enters your house, also known as **whole house filters**. Some examples are water softeners, and whole house reverse osmosis systems.
- Different filtration systems are better for different contaminants, feel free to reach out to your local health department or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Is there a water filter that can filter out all contaminants?

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**NO**—There is not a filter for all contaminants. Test your water and contact Washtenaw County Health Department by email at [health@washtenaw.org](mailto:health@washtenaw.org) or by calling 734-544-6700. You can also call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315 for helping to decide which filter is best for you.

Who do I contact if I plan to install a new private residential well?

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Contact the Washtenaw County Health Department by email at [health@washtenaw.org](mailto:health@washtenaw.org) or by calling 734-544-6700. Information on installing a new well can be found at <https://www.washtenaw.org/3004/Installing-a-Well-in-Washtenaw-County>.

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Check out [Home | Lyndon Township](#) for more information!