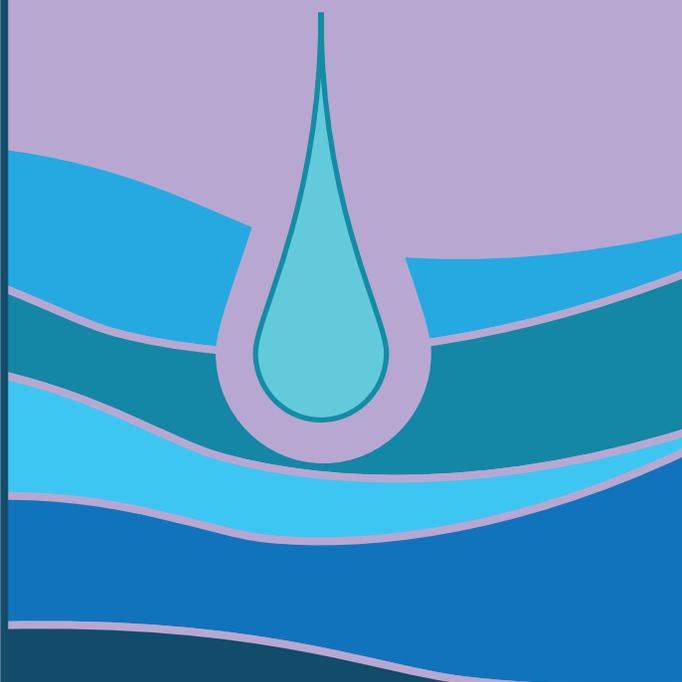


PESTICIDES IN YOUR WELL WATER

Tips to Protect Your Well Water



Private wells can provide a clean, safe source of water if they are properly located, built, and maintained. As a private well owner, it is your responsibility to make sure that your water is safe to use by testing for contaminants. This brochure provides information on pesticides and helps you understand the possible health effects of drinking water that contains pesticides.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY WELL HAS PESTICIDES?

Just because water is clear and smells okay does not mean the water is safe. Testing the water is the only way to know if there is a pesticide problem. Wells located on or near agricultural areas or near pesticide-related industries may be at greater risk for having pesticides in their well water. For information on how to test your well, contact your local public health district or the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (phone numbers on back of brochure). You can also contact the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to find out which pesticides are commonly used in your area and the best time to test for these pesticides. If you do find pesticides in your well water, ISDA can help you understand whether they are above safe levels.

WHAT CAN I DO IF PESTICIDES ARE IN MY WELL?

If your test results show that pesticides are in your drinking water, depending on the amount and type of pesticide, you may be able to use a home treatment device to remove the pesticides. However, you may need to switch to another source of water such as city water or bottled water, or drill a new well if the pesticides cannot be removed by

WHAT ARE PESTICIDES?

Pesticides are chemicals used to control pests or prevent pests from causing damage to things such as crops and homes. Pests can be insects, rodents, unwanted plants (weeds), fungi, or microorganisms like bacteria and viruses. There are different types of pesticides including insecticides (for insects), herbicides (for weeds), and fungicides (for fungus). Pesticides can get into the groundwater and potentially into your well water when they are applied for agricultural, urban, and noncrop purposes, and if they are spilled or disposed of improperly.

a home treatment device. Your local public health district or NSF International can provide you with information on the best option for removing pesticides from your well water (numbers are located on the back of this brochure).

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH CONCERNS?

The health concerns related to drinking water containing pesticides depends on the pesticide, the amount of pesticide, how long the person has been drinking the water, and the person's overall health and age. If you have concerns about your health, please contact your doctor.



HEALTH DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

Panhandle Health District

208-415-5200
www.phd1.idaho.gov
(serving Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone counties)

North Central Health District

208-799-3100
www.idahopublichealth.com
(serving Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties)

Southwest District Health

208-455-5400
www.publichealthidaho.com
(serving Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette and Washington counties)

Central District Health

208-375-5211
www.cdhd.idaho.gov
(serving Ada, Boise, Elmore and Valley counties)

South Central Public Health District

208-737-5900
www.phd5.idaho.gov
(serving Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties)

Southeastern Idaho Public Health

208-233-9080
www.sdhdidaho.org
(serving Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Butte, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties)

Eastern Idaho Public Health District

208-522-0310
www.phd7.idaho.gov
(serving Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton counties)

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Licensed Well Drillers

www.idwr.idaho.gov/apps/well/licensedwelldrillers/

Ground Water Protection Section

Boise: 208-287-4800
www.idwr.idaho.gov

Northern Region, Coeur d'Alene: 208-769-1450

Eastern Region, Idaho Falls: 208-525-7161

Southern Region, Twin Falls: 208-736-3033

Western Region, Boise: 208-334-2190

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Water Program

Boise Office 208-332-8597
www.agri.state.id.us

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Bureau of Community and Environmental Health

1-866-240-3553
www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov
bceh@dhw.idaho.gov

Idaho Bureau of Laboratories

208-334-2235
www.statelab.idaho.gov
statelab@dhw.idaho.gov

NSF INTERNATIONAL

Consumer Hotline 1-800-673-8010
www.nsf.org

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAINTAIN MY WATER SYSTEM?

If you install a home treatment device, make sure it is certified by NSF International and follow the manufacturer's suggested maintenance schedule to be sure your water is safe. Also, your well should be maintained to keep it in good working order. To help keep track of well maintenance, it is recommended that you create and maintain a "system maintenance log." The log should include the location of the well, construction and contractor details, as well as results of any water tests. A copy of a log is available by calling the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare at 1-866-240-3553 or you can access it online at www.dhw.idaho.gov.

For questions about your well water, contact your local public health district.

SUGGESTED TESTING SCHEDULE

The table below shows how often you should test your well for contaminants.

Contaminants	How often should I test?
Bacteria Nitrate	Once a year
Arsenic Uranium Fluoride	Once every 3 to 5 years