

NOT CONNECTED TO PUBLIC WATER?

What Well Owners in Hampton Roads Need to Know

Did you know... If you receive water from [Utility Name], your water is tested and monitored to meet state and federal standards. If your home is served by a private well, you are responsible for monitoring your well water quality. Read to learn more about how to keep your well water safe.

Why is Testing Important?



Private wells are not regulated like public water systems. Water quality can be affected by:

- Naturally occurring minerals in soils
- Septic systems
- Flooding and heavy rainfall
- Agricultural or stormwater runoff containing chemicals or road salts
- Nearby landfills or hazardous waste sites
- Leaking underground storage tanks
- Aging well components, especially the wellhead covering, casing and cap
- Improper well construction

Some contaminants have no taste, smell, or color, so clear water may not be safe to drink, bathe or cook with.

How Often Should You Test?

The Virginia Department of Health recommends:

Every year:

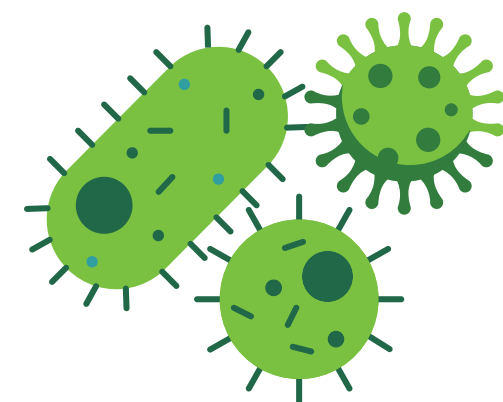
- Nitrates
- Total coliform bacteria
- E. coli

Every 3–5 years:

- pH
- Hardness
- Iron & manganese
- Lead
- Arsenic
- Fluoride

Test immediately if:

- Your water changes in taste, smell, or color
- Your well floods
- You repair or replace well components
- Household members experience unexplained illness



Where to Get Tested?

Testing services are available through multiple private labs and some municipal drinking water labs in Hampton Roads. Contact your locality's water utility department to learn more about the services they offer. You can also review the Virginia Department of Consolidated Laboratory Services directory to identify a certified drinking water lab nearest you. available on the Virginia Department of General Services' 'Find a Lab' webpage.

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Virginia Tech offers affordable water testing clinics across Virginia, including events in Hampton Roads. Clinics cost \$70 and include:

- Local sample kit pick-up event or period
- Sample collection day on which all participants collect their water samples following our instructions and drop off locally. The date listed in the table below
- Sample transport to Virginia Tech for analysis
- About 4-5 weeks after sample collection, water test results are returned by email, mail or at a local meeting. A local in-person or virtual Zoom results meeting may be offered along with a recorded presentation about well maintenance, water quality problems and solving problems.

2026 Clinics in Hampton Roads

Date	Location	Extension Agent	Email	Phone Number
7/22/2026	Isle of Wight	Livvy Preisser	livvy16@vt.edu	757-365-6261
7/22/2026	Chesapeake	Michael Andruczyk	mikeand@vt.edu	757-382-6348
7/22/2026	Suffolk	Andrea Slye	awise@vt.edu	757-514-4337
7/22/2026	VA Beach	Roy Flannagan	royf@vt.edu	757-382-6348
11/11/2026	Surry	Elizabeth Cooper	elizp16@vt.edu	757-294-5303

*The date listed is the sample drop-off date. Sample collection occurs beforehand. Visit <https://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/contact.php> for more info.

After Flooding or Major Storms

Because Hampton Roads experiences flooding and heavy rainfall:

- Assume your well may be contaminated after flooding.
- Do not use the water for drinking, cooking, or brushing teeth until it has been tested.
- Contact your local health department for guidance on disinfection and testing.

For more information and helpful resources related to private wells, contact:

1. Your local health department

2. The Virginia Cooperative Extension:

☎ 540-231-9058

🌐 <https://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/contact.php>

✉ wellwater@vt.edu

3. www.WellOwner.org

Visit askHRgreen.org to learn about protecting water quality in Hampton Roads

