

Private Well Sampling Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last Updated: October 20, 2026

Q: How can I find more information about my private well, including the well permit number?

A: DNREC maintains records of wells that were permitted on the [DNREC Well Viewer](#). You may be able to use the viewer to find information about your well, including the permit number and available construction details.

Some older well records may not be available. If you cannot find your well, please complete the [Private Well Water Sampling Request and Consent Form](#). DNREC staff can work with you to identify available information about your well.

Q: What contaminants will sampling identify in my well water?

A: Your well water will be tested for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), as well as standard drinking water parameters, including chloride, fluoride, nitrate, nitrite, sulfate, iron, sodium, hardness, alkalinity, pH, total coliforms, E. coli, and in some cases, manganese. Samples are sent to laboratories in Delaware for analysis.

Q: What do I need to do to have my well sampled?

A: Start by completing the [Private Well Sampling Request and Consent Form](#).

After receiving your form, we will contact you within 30 days to coordinate sampling and let you know if you need to be home during the visit.

A sampling team will collect water samples from your private well and send them to a laboratory for analysis. Once laboratory testing is complete, you will receive your results by mail within approximately 90 days.

You are not required to participate in sampling or accept treatment offered by the State.

Q: How much does testing cost?

A: There is no cost to you for water sampling and laboratory testing provided through Delaware's Private Well Sampling Program. If your results indicate that

additional assistance may be appropriate, we will discuss available options and any next steps with you.

Q: I already have a water treatment system. Can my well still be sampled?

A: Yes. When completing the [request form](#), tell us what type of filtration or treatment system you currently have.

Depending on your system and the contaminants being evaluated, we will likely collect samples before and after your existing filter. This will help us better understand your untreated water quality, how your current system is performing, and if your current device(s) needs to be serviced.

Please note that the State cannot provide maintenance for privately installed filtration systems.

Q: If the State offers me a filtration system, can someone install it for me?

A: Yes. If testing indicates that water treatment is needed, the State will coordinate the installation of an appropriate treatment system.

Q: Who maintains the filtration system after it is installed?

A: The State provides one year of maintenance for filtration systems installed through the program. This may include follow-up water testing and filter replacement as needed.

After the first year, maintenance becomes the homeowner's responsibility.

Q: Do I have to accept a filtration system offered by the State?

A: No. You are under no obligation to accept treatment offered by the State. Based on your results, the State will provide information about available treatment options to help you make an informed decision about what is best for your household.

Q: How will my sampling data be used?

A: Your sampling results will help the State determine whether PFAS or other drinking water parameters are present in your well water. The data will also help us better understand local, regional, and statewide groundwater quality.

Q: Do I have to disclose my sampling results when I sell my home?

A: Requirements related to property disclosures are governed by Delaware law and we cannot provide legal advice regarding a homeowner's disclosure obligations.

Q: Can renters request sampling?

A: If you rent a home that uses a private well and are interested in having the water sampled, please complete the [Private Well Water Sampling Request and Consent Form](#).

If you have any other further questions, please email us at:
DNREC_WHS_OMBUDSMAN@Delaware.gov

Last Updated: October 20, 2026