

Notice to Private Well Owners – Test Your Drinking Water

April 29, 2026

If your home uses a private well, you are responsible for making sure your drinking water is safe.

When should you test your private well?

Manitoba Public Health and the Office of Drinking Water recommend testing your well water at least once each year, and more often if:

- your well is near a river, lake, or other surface water where water intrusion may occur;
- there has been spring snowmelt, flooding, or heavy rainfall; or
- you notice a change in water colour, clarity, odour, or taste.

If you believe your well may be affected by flooding, **boil drinking water before use** and arrange testing once conditions stabilize. See flood and well-water safety fact sheet here: www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/spring_outlook/wellwater_safety_factsheet.pdf

Affordable Private Well Testing

Manitoba's Private Well Testing Subsidy Program helps private well owners test their water for harmful bacteria, including total coliforms and *E. coli*.

- One subsidized test per household each year
- Cost: **\$17.67 (tax included)**
- Testing laboratory: Duracan Laboratory, 862 Dufferin Avenue, Winnipeg

If test results show bacteria:

- you will be notified as soon as possible;
- water used for drinking, food preparation, brushing teeth, or making ice should be boiled at a rolling boil for one minute before use, or use bottled water;
- you will receive instructions on how to disinfect your well; and
- a **free follow-up test** will be offered to confirm the water is safe after treatment.

For questions about the Private Well Testing Subsidy Program, contact Duracan Laboratory at 204-960-9995 or www.duracan.ca/contact.

You may choose to submit samples to other accredited laboratories, but the subsidized rate applies only through Duracan: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/lab

Additional Resources

More information on private wells, testing, and treatment is available at:

- www.gov.mb.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/index.html
- <https://wellwellness.vercel.app>

For general drinking water safety questions, contact the Office of Drinking Water at 204-945-5762 or odw@gov.mb.ca.