Well Testing in Washington Township

Did you know that homeowners are responsible for testing their wells for contaminants? Unlike public water, which is tested by the provider, the quality of well water is the responsibility of the property owner alone. The CDC recommends testing water annually to ensure there are no contaminants present.

Percent of sampled wells exceeding contaminant limits in Washington Township (Data from NJDEP PWTA 2025)

Nitrate	0.4%, (1449 wells sampled)
Arsenic	0.3%, (1445 wells sampled)
Iron	27.7%, (1449 wells sampled)
Manganese	17.9%, (1449 wells sampled)
Gross Alpha	1.5%, (481 wells sampled)
VOC	0.2%, (1449 wells sampled)
Fecal coliform or E. coli	1.5%, (1443 wells sampled)
pH	58.8%, (1449 wells sampled)
At least one PFAS exceeded	4.1% 169 wells sampled

Contaminants can enter your water through naturally occurring deposits, faulty septic tanks or sewer leaks, and nearby land use practices including farming, manufacturing, and landscaping.

What can you do?

1. Get your well tested for common contaminants annually. The Washington Township Environmental Commission is partnered with Raritan Headwaters Association to offer low-cost testing annually. Testing is offered in April of each year.
2. If needed, remediate.

What should you test for?

Test annually for total coliform bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids, and PH levels. Test for additional contaminants if you suspect an issue, or if you have noticed any of the following conditions (from the EPA):

Conditions or Nearby Activities:	Test for:
Recurring gastro-intestinal illness	Coliform bacteria
Household plumbing or service lines that contain lead	pH, lead, copper
Radon in indoor air or region is radon rich	Radon
Corrosion of pipes, plumbing	Corrosion, pH, lead
Nearby areas of intensive agriculture	Nitrate, nitrite, pesticides, coliform bacteria
Coal or other mining operations nearby	Metals, pH, corrosion
Gas drilling operations nearby	Chloride, sodium, barium, strontium
Dump, junkyard, landfill, factory, gas station or dry-cleaning operation nearby	Volatile organic compounds, total dissolved solids, pH, sulfate, chloride, metals
Odor of gasoline or fuel oil, and near gas station or buried fuel tanks	Volatile organic compounds
Objectionable taste or smell	Hydrogen sulfide, corrosion, metals

Conditions or Nearby Activities:	Test for:
Stained plumbing fixtures, laundry	Iron, copper, manganese
Salty taste and seawater, or a heavily salted roadway nearby	Chloride, total dissolved solids, sodium
Scaly residues, soaps don't lather	Hardness
Rapid wear of water treatment equipment	pH, corrosion
Water softener needed to treat hardness	Manganese, iron
Water appears cloudy, frothy or colored	Color, detergents

How can you fix the problem?
Below are some common contaminants and possible remediation techniques:

Contaminant	Remediation
Nitrate	Ion exchange, distillation, reverse osmosis
Arsenic	Reverse osmosis, distillation, ion exchange, ultra-filtration.
Iron	
Manganese	
Gross Alpha	
VOC	Metals, pH, corrosion
Fecal Coliform	Boil water
pH	