Protect your family's health – and your investment

Are you buying a home with a well or spring? Individual private water sources can contain harmful substances at levels that could cause health effects and make you sick. It's better to know what's in the water you and your family will be drinking before you buy the house of your dreams. Here's what you need to do to get the water tested.

Be a smart home buyer

Clean, safe drinking water protects your family's health and your investment. There are many steps to buying a home, but testing the water – at a cost of $159 – is a simple one. You can collect samples from the tap yourself or ask your home inspector to collect them. Watch our how-to video on testing your water at HealthVermont.gov/water.

What to test the water for

Test for common contaminants using the **Vermont Homeowners Testing Package** from the Health Department Laboratory. This includes tests for:

- Bacteria
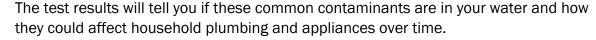- Inorganic chemicals
- Gross alpha radiation

You may also want to test for radon in air. Visit HealthVermont.gov/radon for more information.

Where to get a water test

Use a certified drinking water laboratory. You can order test kits from the Health Department Laboratory at 800-660-9997 or 802-338-4724 or use another certified drinking water lab. For a list of certified labs, visit TinyURL.com/certified-lab.

What to do after you test

The test results will tell you if these common contaminants are in your water and how they could affect household plumbing and appliances over time.

If you have questions about your results and next steps, visit HealthVermont.gov/water-a-z. You can also get advice from the Health Department's water quality experts. Call 802-489-7339 or email AHS.VDHDrinkingWaterProgram@vermont.gov.

Learn more at HealthVermont.gov/water