

Ira Private Water Concerns

Have you tested your drinking water?



Gross alpha radiation is found more often in Ira than other towns in Vermont.

Seven out of ten tested wells in Ira had elevated levels of gross alpha radiation in their water.



Ira had higher levels of gross alpha radiation than anywhere else in the state.



Where does it come from?

Gross alpha radiation comes from naturally occurring elements, like uranium and radium found in Earth's crust. These elements are most commonly found in Vermont's bedrock. Different land uses near wells and springs can also cause contamination.



What are the health risks?

Health risks from exposure to groundwater contaminants range from stomach and digestion problems due to bacteria, to increased likelihood of developing cancers from elevated levels of gross alpha radiation. Some symptoms may not develop for years.



What can you do?

Testing is the only way to know if contaminants are in your water supply. Most common contaminants in Vermont's private water systems, including gross alpha radiation, have no smell, no color and no taste. The Health Department recommends testing your water regularly to make sure it is safe to drink.



More information:

To order the Health Department's recommended set of tests:



Scan the QR code to the left or call **802-338-4724** to purchase the Vermont Homeowner Testing Package for \$159.

For information about recommended testing for common groundwater contaminants in Vermont, go to www.HealthVermont.gov/Water/Testing

For help understanding your results or to discuss treatment options based on your results, email AHS.VDHDinkingWaterProgram@vermont.gov or call 802-489-7339.

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Learn more at HealthVermont.gov