

Pawlet Private Water Concerns

Have you tested your drinking water?



Arsenic and gross alpha radiation have been found in Pawlet water

One out of every five wells or springs in Pawlet that has been tested had unsafe levels of gross alpha radiation.



10% of tested systems also had unsafe levels of arsenic.



Where does it come from?

Gross alpha radiation comes from naturally occurring radioactive elements found in Earth's crust, like uranium and radium. These elements, as well as arsenic, are commonly found in Vermont's bedrock. Different land uses near wells and springs can also cause other kinds of 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 or arsenic. 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 and arsenic 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](tel: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 DrinkingWaterHealth@vermont.gov or call 802-489-7339.

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Learn more at HealthVermont.gov/water