



It's smart to be curious about your well water

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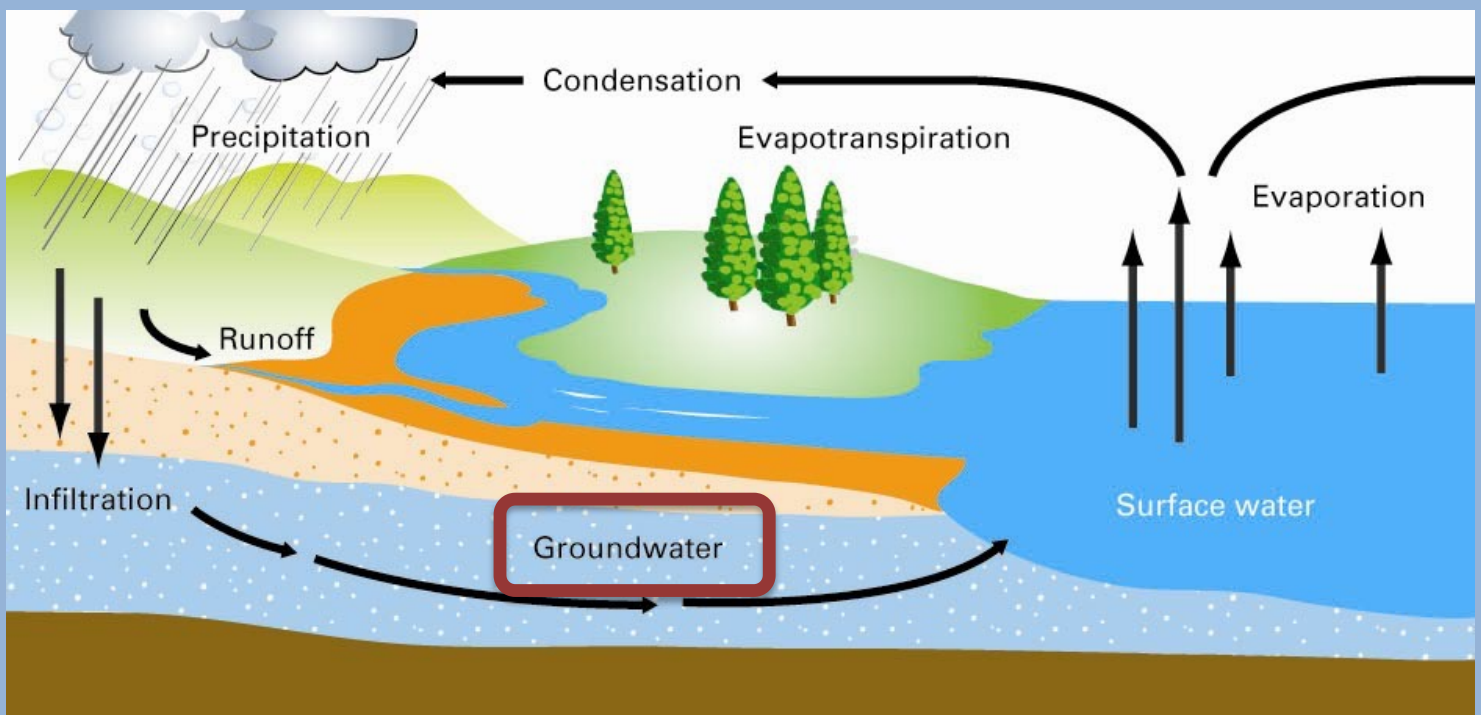
Topics

- Private Well Water Protection
What you need to know
- What to Test for, when & where
- Water Treatment Options

Information pertains to RI private well owners. If you live in another state, check with the local Board of Health or your state agency.



Groundwater is the source of your well water



Your well is placed into the groundwater to supply water to your home.

What to do if the well runs dry:

<https://health.ri.gov/water/for/privatewellowners/about/care/>

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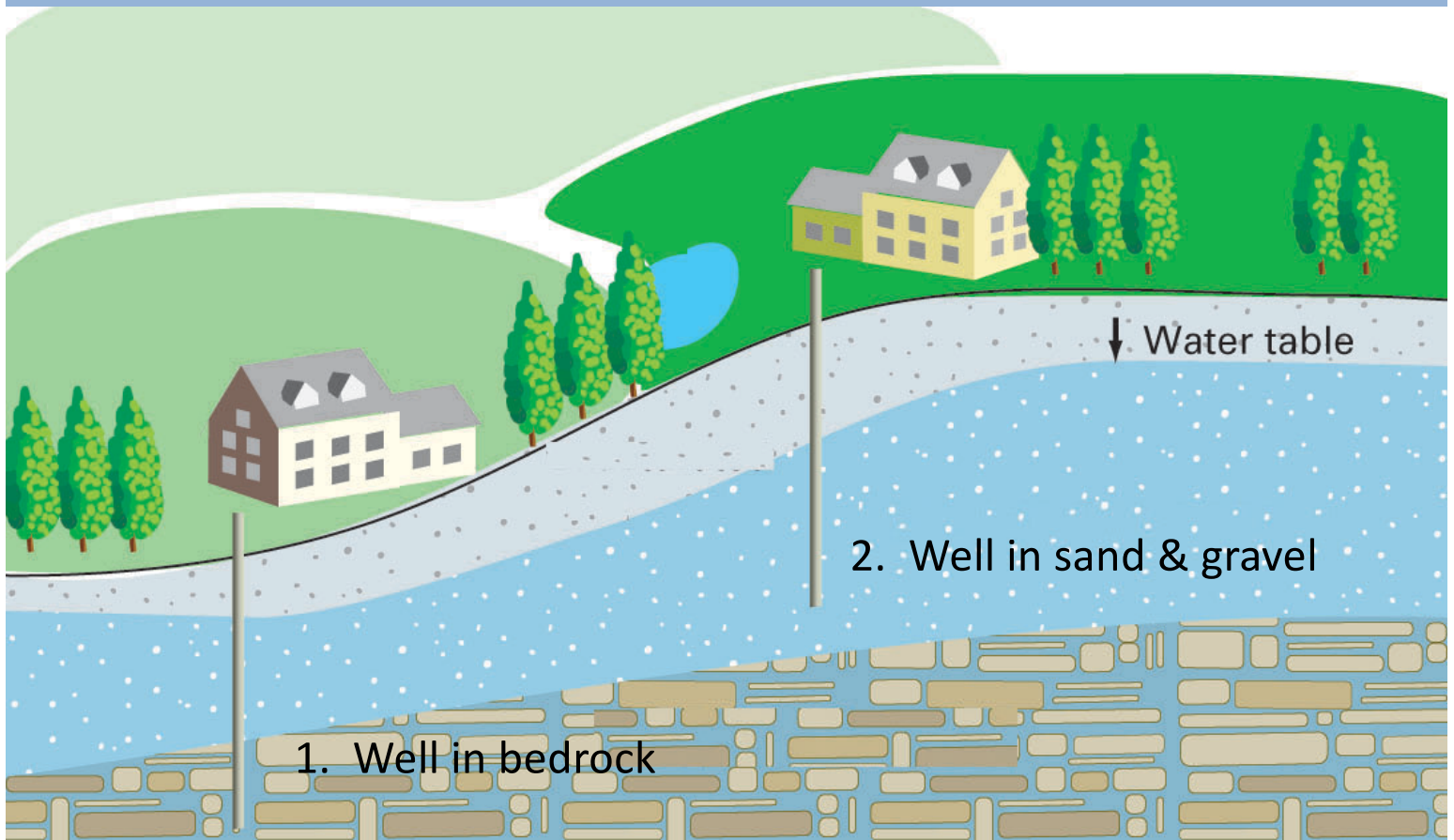
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Private wells are installed in:

1. Bedrock, or
2. Sand & Gravel



Well water quality is affected by:

1. What we do in and around our home.
2. What is in the soil and rock that the groundwater moves through.



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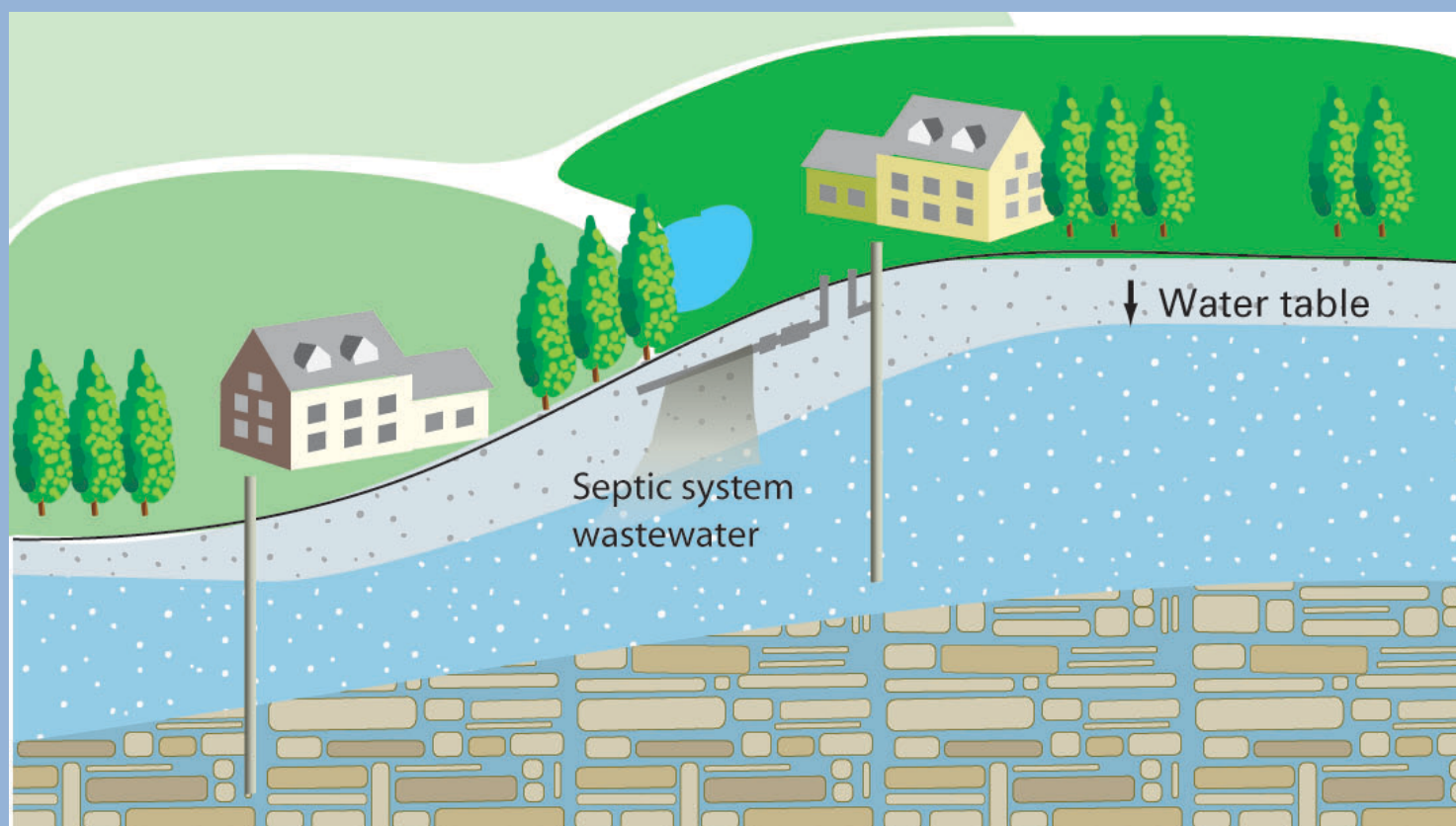
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Let's look at an example

How can a septic system affect groundwater and well water quality?



Well Water Protection

Learn:

- ✓ Where the well is located on your property.
- ✓ What is going on around the well.
- ✓ What type of well you have.
- ✓ What the water test results mean.

Where is the well located

1. In the yard?



Where is the well located

2. In the Neighborhood?



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Minimum private well water set back distances from potential sources of contamination



Sewer Line

50 feet



Septic System
Drainfield



100 feet

50 feet

25 feet



Road Surface



Septic Tank



Animals

- ✓ Low maintenance grass is best around the well



X Decorative coverings, plants and shrubs will encourage animals to live near the well.



What type of well do you have?



Drilled Well



Driven Well



Dug Well

Well Construction - What's Important?

- ✓ Wellhead is at least 18" above the ground.
 - ✓ Well cap is on tight and sealed.
 - ✓ Well casing (piping) is grouted with a water-tight seal.
 - ✓ Well is located away from potential pollution sources.
 - ✓ Well driller submits a Well Completion Report to RI Dept of Health and homeowner. Need yours?
- Contact Grace Clancey at RIDOH – 222-6867
- ✓ Regulations for new well construction & existing well repair:

<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/440-10-00-6>

New Well Construction – Drilling Depths

Well Yield	Minimum Well Depth
5 gallons per minute (gpm)	100 ft. or less
3.5 gpm	150 ft.
2 gpm	200 ft.
1 gpm	300 ft.
0.5 gpm	450 ft.

<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/440-10-00-6>

Drilled Well

Captures groundwater flowing through cracks in bedrock



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Hiring a well contractor?

- ✓ Make sure he/she is licensed and insured.
- ✓ You can double check on RI Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board website. (need contractor's registration #)



Follow the Well Testing Schedule

⌵ Every year	⌵ Every 3–5 years	⌵ Every 5–10 years
Coliform bacteria (germs)	Cadmium Lead	Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
Nitrate	Calcium Manganese	MtBE
Nitrite	Copper Sulfate	
Color	Fluoride pH	
Turbidity (cloudy water)	Iron Zinc	
Chloride	Tests for corrosiveness	
Sodium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alkalinity • Total Dissolved Solids • Hardness • Specific Conductance 	

✓ Keep your test results together in a file. It will help you track any changes in your well water quality over time.

Also, test for:

1. Arsenic if you live near an orchard or where there was one.

2. Beryllium if you live in:

- East Greenwich
- West Greenwich
- Coventry
- Exeter
- western Cranston
- Johnston
- Scituate

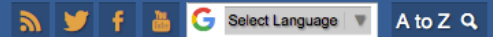
RI HEALTH's Private Well Viewer

<https://health.ri.gov/water/for/privatewellowners/about/testing/>



State of Rhode Island

Department of Health



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[Find Certified Testing Laboratories](#)

Testing Your Well Water

As a private well owner, you need to make sure that your water is safe to drink.

What to Test for

Water quality can change over time and can be affected by various things in the environment. The three routine sets of recommended tests for private wells are:

- Every year: Test for coliform bacteria, nitrate/nitrite, color, chloride, sodium, and turbidity.
- Every three to five years: Test for metals, corrosivity, and hardness.
- Every five to 10 years: Test for volatile organic compounds, and MTBE.

For more details, see our [Smart Well Owner Guide](#). If you've had problems with your well water before or are at a higher risk for certain things (such as soil heavy in iron, or worn-down copper pipes), you should test for those items more often.

There are some areas in Rhode Island where it may be a good idea to test for arsenic and/or beryllium. Arsenic was once used in orchards as a pesticide, and beryllium can naturally be found in the bedrock. You only need to test for arsenic and beryllium once.

You can use our [online tool](#) to see if your home is in an area where testing either arsenic or beryllium tests is recommended.

If you are buying or selling a home with a private well, see [Buying or Selling a Home](#) below.

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Other Times to Test?

- ✓ If the well flooded
- ✓ If you notice a change in the color, taste or smell of your well water



Test at a State-Certified Lab

1. Call and tell the lab what tests you want.
2. They will give you bottles and directions to collect the sample.



1. Carefully follow directions when collecting the sample.
2. Take the sample to the lab within 24 hours.
3. The lab will send you the results. If you have questions about the results, call us.
4. For a fee, many labs will come to the home, collect the sample and take it to the lab for testing.

Where to test: State-certified Water Testing Labs

BAL and ESS Labs

(401) 785-0241
185 Frances Avenue
Cranston, RI 02910
www.ballaboratory.com

Microbac Laboratories

(800) 334-0103
61 Louisa Viens Drive
Dayville, CT 06241
www.microbac.com

New England Testing Lab, Inc.

(401) 353-3420
59 Greenhill Street
West Warwick, RI 02893
www.newenglandtesting.com

RI Analytical Labs

(401) 737-8500
41 Illinois Avenue
Warwick, RI 02888
www.rianalytical.com

RI State Health Laboratories

(401) 222-5600
50 Orms Street
Providence, RI 02904
[www.health.ri.gov/programs/
laboratory](http://www.health.ri.gov/programs/laboratory)

Water test kit



TIP: Lab websites give details about standard water testing packages and costs. You can also call the labs for this information. The yearly tests cost about \$100.

These labs are State-certified as of 3/2019. For updates, see:

www.health.ri.gov/find/labs/privatewelltesting/index.php



Estimated Testing Costs

Annual Well Test costs \$95 at the RI State Health Lab.

Testing costs for everything on the Well Testing Schedule is \$410 at the RI State Health Lab

Average annual public water bill is \$600 +

RI Dept of Health's Private Well Testing Regulations

June 2008

1. Requires testing of new wells.
2. Requires testing upon sale of existing homes with a well.

Buyers are responsible for testing.

Sellers are responsible to disclose all previous water test results.

<https://health.ri.gov/water/for/privatewellowners/about/care/>



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Home Water Treatment

Test and Talk before you treat. Call Us!

We can help answer your questions about treatment.

Point-of-use Treatment:

Treats water at a single tap.
This is an example of an activated carbon filter.



Whole-house Treatment:

Treats all the water entering the house and is installed in the basement.
This is an example of a
1.) sediment filter and
2.) a water softener.

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Take the 4 steps

YOUR HOMEWORK

1. Learn about your well

2. Protect

Keep pollution away

Properly use, store & dispose of household chemicals

Make sure any new well is properly sited

Seal any unused well

3. Test – Follow the Well Testing Schedule

4. Act – Call or email us! We're here to help.



ECO-DEPOT
A Rhode Island Resource Recovery Program



Eco-Depot Schedule 2022

HOURS OF OPERATION

8 AM to 12 PM

Rain or shine*

March 26, 2022 **Providence** – Clean Earth Facility, 252 Allens Ave.

April 9, 2022 **Coventry** – Town Hall Annex, 1675 Flat River Rd.

April 23, 2022 **Narragansett** – North Pavilion, 77 Boston Neck Rd.

May 7, 2022 **Cumberland** – Monastery, 1464 Diamond Hill Rd.

May 21, 2022 **Burrillville** – DPW, 200 Clear River Drive

June 4, 2022 **Warren** – DPW, 21 Birch Swamp Rd.

June 18, 2022 **West Warwick** – Civic Center, 100 Factory St.

July 9, 2022 **Westerly** – DPW, 35 Larry Hirsh Lane

July 23, 2022 **Providence** – Clean Earth Facility, 252 Allens Ave.

August 13, 2022 **East Providence** – DPW, 60 Commercial Way

August 27, 2022 **Tiverton** – DPW, 50 Industrial Way

September 10, 2022 **Providence** – Clean Earth Facility, 252 Allens Ave.

September 24, 2022 **North Kingstown** – DPW, 2050 Davisville Rd.

October 1, 2022 **Richmond** – DPW, 51 Buttonwoods Rd.

October 15, 2022 **Newport** – Easton's Beach, 175 Memorial Blvd.

October 29, 2022 **Woonsocket** – Recycling Facility, 1117 River St.

November 5, 2022 **Warwick** – DPW, 925 Sandy Lane

November 19, 2022 **Pawtucket** – Agnes Little School, 60 South Bend St. (Behind School, back parking lot)

December 3, 2022 **Providence** – Clean Earth Facility, 252 Allens Ave.



*In the event of severe weather (e.g. blizzards, hurricanes), event cancellations will be posted on www.rirrc.org.

We serve approximately 20-25 vehicles every 15 minutes. Appointments are used to avoid everyone arriving at one time, thus reducing waiting times. To make an appointment please call 401.942.1430 x 3241 or visit our website at www.rirrc.org/ecodepot

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*"We took the 4 steps.
We know our well water
is safe for our family."*



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Website Review

URI resources:

www.riwelltesting.org

RI Dept. of Health resources:

<https://health.ri.gov/water/for/privatewellowners/about/testing>

RI Dept. of Health testing map

<http://rihealth.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=96595ebffaf848cdb7707fb141c55880>

RI EcoDepot Schedule:

<https://www.riirc.org/announcements/events>

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Big Thank You for joining us!

Test your well water.
Contact us with questions.

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