

Water well owner?

Did you know?

Your water may be clear, odourless and pleasant to drink, but may contain some bacteria and chemicals hazardous to your health.

Some treatment devices installed to improve water appearance (water softeners, active carbon filters, greensand filters) do not eliminate the health risk hazard.



It is your responsibility to make sure that the quality of your drinking water is safe and to prevent any health problems

What should be analysed?

BACTERIA*: Test your water at least twice a year

- Risk of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach ache.
- Presence caused by human and animal activity.

* The analysis includes total coliforms and fecal coliforms, E. coli, enterococci and atypical colonies.

NITRATES: Test once a year

- Reduction of the level of oxygen in the blood. Pregnant women and babies are the most vulnerable.
- Presence due to agricultural activities and septic tank systems.

ARSENIC: Test at least once

- Carcinogenic substance, naturally present in the ground, **especially in the Eastern-Townships.**

When?

During spring and in fall (spring thaw or during heavy rainfalls) or notice a change in the water odour, taste and appearance.

Where?

Refer to a laboratory that has been accredited by le *ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques* (MDDELCC), such as:

- **Groupe Environex – 1 877 977-1220**
- **Biovet Inc. Saint-Hyacinthe – 450 771-7291**

Some laboratories provide the possibility of ordering an analysis kit to be shipped at your home. Some costs may be associated.

For more details pertaining to water analysis, the licensed laboratories, to assess the results obtained, the health hazards and the potential solutions due to contamination, we invite you to consult:

"The quality of my well water" on the **MDDELCC** website: www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca

"Eau potable" on the **CIUSSS de l'Estrie – CHUS** website: www.santeestrie.qc.ca/eau

"Drinking water wells" on the **Portail santé mieux-être** : sante.gouv.qc.ca

If you suspect any health problems linked to the quality of your water, communicate with **Info-Santé 8-1-1.**