

**Putnam County  
Private Water Supply  
Testing Program**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

How many tests? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Farm Bureau Member? Y N

Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash      Check# \_\_\_\_\_

**Funding to assist with the private water testing program was made possible by the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District.**

**PUTNAM COUNTY SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

1007 Mill Pond Lane, Ste. C  
Greencastle, IN 46135

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**Putnam County  
Private Water Supply  
Testing Program**



**WHAT'S IN YOUR  
WELL WATER?**  
Cost-share program available  
through your local  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District



### The Scoop on Wells...

Did you know that Putnam County has **4,056** private wells???

Did you know about 15% of Americans have their own sources of drinking water, such as wells, cisterns and springs. Unlike public drinking water systems serving many people, they do not have experts regularly checking the water's source and its quality before it is sent through pipes to the community.

#### Testing:

Total coliform analysis should be done annually

Nitrates  
(septic systems & agriculture)

**Tell-tale signs** of other potential contaminants:

Bluish-green staining= **Copper**  
(leaching from pipes)

Red staining of fixtures= **Iron**

Rotten egg odor= **Hydrogen Sulfide and Methane**

Musty or Moldy odor= **Iron Bacteria**

Brown or Black staining of laundry= **Manganese**

#### Well types:

**Dug wells** are shallow, shored up with brick or stone and have the highest risk of contamination due to depth (10-30 ft.).

**Driven wells** are deeper ranging (30-50 ft.), moderate-to-high risk of contamination

**Drilled wells** are the deepest of the wells (100-400 ft.) drilled into the bedrock and is least risk of contamination.

#### Why Test?

When you pour a glass of water, you expect it to be pure and safe. However, absolutely pure water rarely exists in nature. Water absorbs minerals, organic materials, and organisms as it moves through the air and soil into surface and ground water supplies. So, while most water appears clean and problem free at the tap, it may not be safe for drinking or acceptable for household activities. Taste and odor are not always indicators of water quality. Contaminated water can taste and smell fine, while unpleasant tasting or smelling water can be safe to drink or use.

You may wish to test your water if you suspect a problem in your home's plumbing, connections, or treatment system. And if you are one of the 1.7 million private well owners in Indiana, you should know that you are responsible for monitoring the quality of your water. Testing will help confirm if a problem exists.

Source-Purdue Extension publication, WQ-4



#### The SWCD will pay 50% of the Total Coliform/E-Coli test Only

Tests being offered through the Cost Share...

#### Total Coliform/E-Coli \$12.00

Coliform-The presence of coliform bacteria in your water supply is indicative of fecal pollution. Diseases such as diarrhea, Asiatic cholera, salmonellosis, dysentery, hepatitis, typhoid fever, urinary tract infections, ear infections, colitis and skin diseases may be spread through fecal contaminated water. (4 oz. sterile container)

**\$6.00 (land owner) \$6.00 (SWCD)**

**In addition The SWCD will pay up to \$6.00 toward Nitrate testing.**

#### Nitrate: \$20.00 (Includes the E.coli/total coliform testing.)

Levels of nitrates exceeding 10mg/L. This results in oxygen deprivation, which may be harmful to the developing nervous system of young children. Or cause death by suffocation. Symptoms include chocolate colored blood, headache, flushing of the skin, vomiting dizziness, marked fall of blood pressure, cyanosis (bluish purple discoloration of skin and mucous membranes), collapse, coma, and respiratory paralysis (8 oz. container)

**\$14.00 (land owner) \$6.00 (SWCD)**

Other testing is available-please contact the Putnam Co. SWCD for information.

RESULTS ARE STRICTLY  
CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE MAILED  
DIRECTLY TO YOU