

MAINTENANCE & CARE

- Be sure the well cover, cap, and casing are in good repair and install a locking well cap.
- Keep hazardous chemicals like paint, fertilizer, pesticides, gasoline, and motor oil away from your well.
- Check your well each month for visible signs of cracking or corrosion.
- Keep your septic system working properly. Have it checked each year and pumped every 3-5 years.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides properly.
 - Do not mix them near the well so you don't contaminate your water source.
- Have your water tested every few years for bacteria and metals and minerals which include nitrates.

COMMON TASTE, SMELL & APPEARANCE PROBLEMS IN WELL WATER

- Iron and manganese (stains), hydrogen sulfide (sulfur smell) and hardness (scaling)



Call your local DHEC Environmental Affairs office if you have any questions.

UPSTATE EA

Upstate EA Anderson
(864) 260-5585
220 McGee Rd.
Anderson, SC 29621
(Anderson, Oconee)

Upstate EA Greenville
(864) 372-3273
200 University Rdg.
Greenville, SC 29601
(Greenville, Pickens)

Upstate EA Greenwood
(864) 227-5915
1736 South Main St.
Greenwood, SC 29646
(Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick)

Upstate EA Spartanburg
(864) 596-3327
151 E. Wood St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)

Upstate EA Walhalla
(864) 638-4185
415 South Pine St.
Walhalla, SC 29691

MIDLANDS EA

Midlands EA Aiken
(803) 642-1637
206 Beaufort St., NE
Aiken, SC 29801
(Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, Saluda)

Midlands EA Columbia
(803) 896-0620
State Park Health Center
8500 Farrow Rd. Bldg 12
Columbia, SC 29203
Mail Address: P.O. Box 156,
State Park, SC 29147
(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)

Midlands EA Lancaster
(803) 285-7461
2475 DHEC Rd.
Lancaster, SC 29720
(Chester, Lancaster, York)

Midlands EA Rock Hill
(803) 909-7379
1070 Heckle Blvd.
Rock Hill, SC 29730

PEE DEE EA

Pee Dee EA Florence
(843) 661-4825
Florence County Health Dept.
145 E. Cheves St.
Florence, SC 29506
(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro)

Pee Dee EA Myrtle Beach
(843) 238-4378
927 Shine Ave.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)

Pee Dee EA Sumter
(803) 778-6548
105 N. Magnolia St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)

Pee Dee EA Conway
(843) 915-8801
Conway Health Dept.
1931 Industrial Park Rd.
Conway, SC 29526

LOWCOUNTRY EA

Lowcountry EA Beaufort
(843) 846-1030
104 Parker Dr.
Beaufort, SC 29906
(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)

Lowcountry EA Charleston
(843) 953-0150
1362 McMillan Ave., Suite 300
Charleston, SC 29405
(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)

Lowcountry EA Orangeburg
(803) 533-5490
1550 Carolina Ave.
Orangeburg, SC 29115
(Allendale, Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)



caring for your
WELL

TESTING & MAINTENANCE



Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

WWW.SCDHEC.GOV/WELLWATER

RESPONSIBILITY OF TESTING

If your drinking water comes from your well, it is your responsibility to test the well water for contaminants.

WHO CAN TEST YOUR WELL WATER

DHEC or any DHEC certified commercial lab can test a sample of your well water. For a list of certified labs, call (803) 896-0970.

WATER TESTING & FEES

- Fees are charged for analysis of water samples submitted to DHEC or commercial lab.
- Exceptions may apply based on your ability to pay and under certain conditions. Please call your local DHEC office or visit www.scdhec.gov/wellwater to learn more.
- DHEC accepts water samples to be tested for bacteria only on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Samples being tested for bacteria need to be at the lab within 30 hours after collection.
- Samples from public water systems or lakes, rivers, and streams will **not** be accepted.
- For more information:
 - Call 1-888-761-5989 (Toll Free)
 - Visit www.scdhec.gov/wellwater

WATER TESTING & FEES CONT.

BACTERIA* \$20 per sample

METALS & MINERALS \$50 per sample
(pH, alkalinity, nitrates, chloride, calcium, magnesium, hardness, manganese, iron, copper, lead, and zinc.)

OTHER MINERALS \$25 per test
(Fluoride, sodium, arsenic, etc.)

OTHER ANALYSES Contact Regional Offices
(pesticides, herbicides, PCBs, etc.)

* Initial sample for a new well is included in the application fee.

HOW TO TEST YOUR WELL WATER

For the bacteria test pick up a sample kit at any DHEC office (www.scdhec.gov/regions).

COMMON CONTAMINANTS & HEALTH CONCERNS

BACTERIA (FECAL COLIFORM)

- Can cause immediate health effects.
- If family members or visitors are frequently getting sick with vomiting and diarrhea, you should stop drinking your water and test your well for bacteria.
- Make sure you drink and cook from an alternative water source until your well is properly disinfected and retested.
- Call DHEC's local office (see back) if you have questions about disinfecting your well.

NITRATES

- Nitrates reduce your blood's ability to carry oxygen and at high levels can cause serious health problems for persons in poor health.
- Infants are most at risk and can get sick or die if high levels of nitrate are in drinking water.
- Agricultural areas tend to have the highest levels of nitrates due to fertilizer application and animal manure. Septic systems can also be a source.
- EPA standard for nitrate in water is 10 mg/l (milligrams per liter).
- A reverse osmosis filtering system can remove nitrates from your water.

RADIOACTIVITY

- Long-term exposure to radioactive substances can increase your risk of developing certain types of cancer.
- Radium, radon and uranium are elements that occur naturally in rocks and are sometimes in well water.
- The EPA standard for uranium in water is 30 µg/L (micrograms per liter) and radium is 5 pCi/L (picocuries per liter).
- There is no standard for radon in drinking water.
- A reverse osmosis or ion exchange filtering system can remove radionuclides from water.

ARSENIC

- Long-term exposure to arsenic can increase your risk of developing certain types of cancer.
- Arsenic occurs naturally in rocks and is sometimes in well water.
- EPA standard for arsenic in drinking water is 10 µg/L (micrograms per liter).
- A reverse osmosis filtering system or ion exchange filter system can remove arsenic from your water.