

# WATER QUALITY TESTS FOR DRINKING WATER



Center for Watershed Science and Education  
College of Natural Resources  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Water & Environmental Analysis Laboratory  
715-346-3209 or Toll Free 877-383-8378  
Effective January 2015

**Bacteriological testing requires 24 hours.** Therefore, the lab will not accept samples for bacteria analysis on any Friday or July 3, Dec. 23-25, and Dec. 30 – Jan 1.

The following list of water analyses and costs cover the majority of analyses that would be of interest to private well owners.

## **HOMEOWNER PACKAGE** *(Includes tests 1-8)* ..... **\$49.00**

This is a 42% discount savings (total individual cost \$84).

The Homeowner Package consists of the following analyses which can be run separately for price indicated.

1. **Total Coliform Bacteria** ..... 23.00  
Test the bacteriological safety of a water supply.  
**Priority analysis (48 hour turnaround)** ..... \$46.00
2. **Nitrate plus Nitrite-Nitrogen** ..... 16.00  
These are the most common chemical contaminants in Wisconsin groundwater. They may also serve as an indicator of the potential presence of other contaminants, such as pesticides or trace organic chemicals from septic system effluent.  
**Priority analysis (48 hour turnaround)** ..... \$32.00
3. **pH** ..... 9.00  
Measure of relative acidity of the water. Useful in assessing the corrosivity of water to plumbing.
4. **Alkalinity** ..... 9.00  
Amount of bicarbonate (*acid neutralizing capacity*), the major anion in water, related to pH and corrosion.
5. **Hardness** ..... 9.00  
Measure of the amount of calcium and magnesium. Important if water softening is considered.
- 6 **Chloride** ..... 10.00  
An indicator ion that, if found in elevated concentration, indicates potential contamination from septic systems, fertilizer, landfills, or road salt.
- 7 **Conductivity** ..... 8.00  
Measure of total dissolved minerals in water. Change in conductivity or unusual ratio of conductivity to hardness may signal presence of contaminants.
- 8 **Corrosivity Index** .....  
This is a calculation to determine the tendency of water to be corrosive or scale forming.

Homeowner Package **plus Fluoride** ..... 65.00  
**Fluoride** ..... \$19.00

## **METAL PACKAGE** *(This test requires an acidified bottle.)* ..... **45.00**

This is a 76% discount savings (total individual cost \$187).

**Individual metals are \$17/each**

Arsenic, Calcium, Copper, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Potassium, Sodium, Total Sulfur (SO<sub>4</sub>), and Zinc.

## THE FOLLOWING TESTS REQUIRE A SEPARATE ACIDIFIED BOTTLE

**Please Call the Laboratory**

If organic pollution from a landfill, waste spreading, septic system, or animal waste is suspected the following analyses are recommended.

COD Chemical Oxygen Demand .....	18.00
Ammonium Nitrogen .....	16.00
*Dissolved Iron .....	17.00
Desirable if natural iron is present and concentration is needed to choose a treatment system.	

If corrosion is suspected and indicated by the corrosivity index, lead and copper may be leaching from plumbing at concentrations that could be a health concern.

*Lead .....	17.00
*Copper .....	17.00

Arsenic in drinking water has been an increasing concern in Wisconsin.

*Arsenic – Screening.....	17.00
Arsenic – Low level analysis.....	24.00

\* Marked analyses are also run as part of the “Metal Package” listed on front of this sheet.

**Priority analyses can be run on any of the above samples for double the listed price.**

### PESTICIDE ANALYSES

*Call for more detail (715) 346-3753*

Diaminochlorotriazine (DACT) (a breakdown of atrazine and related herbicides) .....	27.00
<b>Priority DACT Analysis</b> .....	75.00
Nitrogen and Phosphorus (N/P) containing pesticides - 40 compounds .....	125.00
Chloroacetanilide Metabolites – 6 compounds .....	95.00
Nitrogen and Phosphorus + Chloroacetanilide Metabolites (NP/CAAM) .....	175.00
(Used on corn and soybeans.)	
Organophosphorus Pesticides - 35 compounds .....	125.00
(Used on cranberries.)	

### For sampling instructions and bottles contact:

715-346-3209 or Toll Free 877-383-8378

E-mail [dsisk@uwsp.edu](mailto:dsisk@uwsp.edu)

Web Page [www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/weal](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/weal)  
(prices not listed on web page)

All data generated on private wells is maintained on a computer database for assisting homeowners in obtaining a safe water supply.

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