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WATER TESTING GUIDE

This packet of information is provided to help you choose the appropriate water test for your home and to assist you in taking a proper water sample. The document **SUGGESTED WATER QUALITY TESTING FOR HOMEOWNER WELLS** provides a general description and educational information to help you consider which test would be most useful. **INSTRUCTIONS** for collecting the sample and a **WATER TEST SUBMITTAL FORM** that must be completed and submitted with your sample are provided. If you have any questions on which test to choose or on how to complete the submittal form, please feel free to call the laboratory at 271-3445. If sampling for a home mortgage, call the lender to identify the specific water quality tests they require. If sampling to obtain a food, daycare, or other license, check with the program for water testing requirements.

STANDARD ANALYSIS- This is the primary analysis made on new wells in order to evaluate their water quality including some aesthetic related parameters. This test is also recommended if you observe any of the following: staining of sinks, tubs, or laundry; scaling or chalking residue on hot water pipes; salty or metallic taste. The **STANDARD** analysis includes the following tests: (\$85.00)

Total Coliform Bacteria	Chloride	Iron	Lead (both stagnant and flushed)
<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria	pH	Manganese	Copper (both stagnant and flushed)
Nitrate	Hardness	Sodium	Uranium
Nitrite	Fluoride	Arsenic	

BASIC ANALYSIS (BCN) - This test is recommended as a periodic check of acute health related parameters after a Standard Analysis has been completed. This test includes: Total Coliform Bacteria, *E. coli* Bacteria, Nitrate, Nitrite, and Chloride. (\$30.00)

DRINKING WATER BACTERIA- This test should be chosen as a follow up to the Standard Analysis or BCN if bacteria were detected in your first test. This test includes: Total Coliform Bacteria and *E. coli* Bacteria. (\$15.00)

***E. coli* in Surface Water**- Performed by a different method from the drinking water bacteria, this test gives an actual count of *E. coli* Bacteria in surface water. (\$20.00)

RADIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS- New Hampshire's bedrock geology contains naturally occurring radioactive elements. Examples include uranium, radium, thorium, and polonium as well as radon, a gas produced by the breakdown of radium. The radioactive elements dissolve easily in water and they emit alpha particles. Bedrock (Artesian) wells have more of a potential for encountering any or all of these elements than dug wells. The radiological analysis includes the following tests: "Analytical" gross alpha (consisting of the total gross alpha activity, i.e. the sum of uranium, radium, and other alpha emitting elements); radon gas; and uranium as mass (weight). Depending on the results of these analyses, additional testing may be recommended to determine the activity from radium and/or isotopic activity of uranium. Some mortgage lenders or towns require a radon analysis for loans or occupancy permits. (\$80.00 Radiological analysis, Radon alone is \$20.00)

FLUORIDE- Many dentists and pediatricians will ask you to test for fluoride in order to determine if, or how much fluoride supplement needs to be prescribed for your child to protect his or her teeth. (\$12.00)

VOLATILE ORGANIC CHEMICALS- This test is recommended if you suspect contamination by industrial solvents or petroleum products. Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MtBE) is included in the Volatile Organic Chemicals test. If you want to test for volatile organics, please request special glass vials and instructions. (\$120.00)

OTHER ANALYSES are available to meet your specific needs. Call the laboratory at 271-3445 to discuss your problem.