



Dakota Well Water FAQ

1. Why do I need to have my well water tested?

We all want to be assured that the water we are drinking, cooking, and brushing our teeth with is clean and safe. There are many factors that can affect the quality of your well water, and you owe it to yourself to make sure that your well water is safe for you and your family.

2. How often should I have my well water tested?

We recommend that you have your well water tested at least once a year. It's best to have your well water tested during a wet weather period, such as in the Spring.

3. What are common well water contaminants?

- Iron - can leave red or orange stains on sinks, tubs, and toilets
- Chlorine - may cause bacteria that makes water unsafe for drinking or bathing
- Arsenic - if arsenic level is too high, you will need to use a reverse osmosis process to filter it out of your well water
- Microorganisms, bacteria, and viruses
- Dirt and sediment - can cause problems for your appliances
- Lead - can lead to serious health problems for children and can damage the brain and kidney
- Hexavalent Chromium - is a carcinogen
- Pharmaceuticals

4. What is hard water and why is it such a problem?

Well water commonly contains a lot of minerals, such as calcium and magnesium. Hard water is not a health hazard, but you will want to use a water softener to limit the negative side effects of hard water. Water is considered to be hard if it has a pH level of 8 or greater.

Hard water may cause several problems in your home:

- Stains on your sinks or toilets
- Spots on your glassware and silverware
- Scale deposits in water pipes
- Damage to appliances such as dishwashers and clothes washers

Purchasing a water softener system for your home will resolve your hard water problems.

5. What are common categories of well water contaminants?

- Physical contaminants include sediment and organic materials.
- Chemical contaminants can include arsenic, nitrogen, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals.
- Biological contaminants are caused by bacteria, protozoa, and parasites in the water.
- Radiological contaminants like cesium, plutonium, and uranium.
- More information can be found at [types of drinking water contaminants](#)