



Free

Available starting June 16th and ending October 31st or until funding expires

Well Water Testing

2020 - Nitrate testing for Juneau County residents

1 Test kit pickup locations

Mauston USDA Service Center:
Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30 pm

Juneau County Health Department
Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30 pm

Juneau County Health Department
200 Hickory Street,
Mauston, Wisconsin 53948

USDA Service Center
1001 Division Street,
Mauston, Wisconsin 53948

2 Collect sample

Locate an unfiltered, untreated water source. Run cold water on high for at least **5 minutes**. Slow water flow to size of a pencil before collecting sample.

Remove the cap without touching the inside of the bottle or the bottle lip. Fill the bottle **1 inch from the top**. Securely tighten the cap.

The sample must be collected and dropped off on the same day.

3 Package sample

Fill out the provided form and **seal tightly** in one plastic bag.

Place the bag with the form in the second plastic bag along with the sealed bottle.

Keep the entire bagged sample **on ice** until time of drop off. **Frozen** samples or samples **at room temperature** will not be accepted.

4 Drop off sample

Juneau County Health Department:
June 16th before 1pm

Juneau County Health Department:
1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month before 1:00pm

5 Results

Water samples will be analyzed at the Wood County Health Department Water Lab. Lab results will be returned within one month. If the sample tests above 8 ppm you will be notified by phone within 48 hours and on-site confirmatory testing will be done by County staff. Results of this water analysis will be used as part of a survey on groundwater quality in Juneau County.

For more information please contact:

Dustin Ladd: Juneau County Conservationist
608-847-7221 ext. 3

Amanda Dederich: Juneau County Health Department
608-847-9373



Nitrate in Private Well Water

Drinking water with high levels of nitrate is unsafe for everyone.

Babies and women who are or may become pregnant women are especially sensitive to nitrate. Immediate action should be taken if levels are high. High levels of nitrate can cause methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome) in babies less than 6 months old and increase the risk for certain types of birth defects in pregnant women.

Recent studies have shown that high levels of nitrate may cause thyroid problems and increase the risk of certain types of cancers in **everyone**.

Test your well for nitrate every year.

Because **you cannot smell, taste, or see nitrate in your water**, we recommend that you [test for nitrate](#) at least once a year.

Test more often if:

Babies or pregnant women use the water.
You notice a change in color, taste, or smell of the water.

Test right away

A new well is constructed.
You have not tested your well in the past five years.

Test twice a year
(6 months apart)

Nitrate has been found in wells in every county in Wisconsin.

Nitrate naturally occurs in plants and animals.

Nitrate can enter groundwater from fertilizers and animal and human waste (poop).

Take action if nitrate levels are high!

If your nitrate-nitrogen level is:

Less than 10 mg/L



You can use the water for all activities including drinking, brushing teeth, preparing food, handwashing, and bathing.



10 mg/L or greater



Women who are or may become pregnant and babies should immediately stop using the water for drinking and preparing foods that use a lot of water like infant formula, soup, and rice.



Everyone should avoid long-term use of water for these purposes.



Everyone can use the water for other activities like handwashing, brushing teeth, and bathing.

Take steps to fix your well.

As a well owner, you are responsible for your own water. Your [local health department](#) can help explain your test results and options for fixing and improving your well. **The next page has options for keeping you and your family safe.**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Division of Public Health | Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh | dhsenvhealth@wi.gov

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