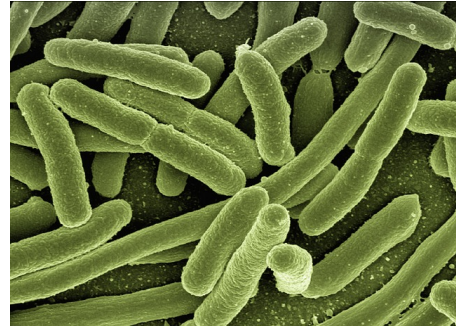


When was the last time you tested for bacteria?

Spring is here! While you're cleaning up your home for the season, don't overlook your water treatment and pump systems. An annual check by Water-Flo can make sure all the systems are in good repair and working correctly. It's also a good time to do a bacterial test of the water. The "total coliform test" is the basic yardstick for determining the presence of coliform and/or E.coli in a water supply. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for bacteria in drinking water as zero total coliform colonies per 100 milliliters of water. Bacterial contamination cannot be detected by sight, smell, or taste. The only way to know if a water supply contains coliform bacteria, which occur naturally in the environment, is to have it tested. It's recommended to test your well water for bacteria:



E. coli bacteria, which can be found in the environment, food and intestines of people and animals

- At least annually (per The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Environmental Health Section, Private Well Program).
- When a new well is constructed.
- When an existing well is returned to service.
- Anytime part of the water system is opened for repair. This includes the well, pump, pressure tank, piping, and any other components that your drinking water comes into contact.
- Whenever flood waters or surface runoff inundates the well.
- Whenever you suspect bacterial contamination, as might be indicated by continuing illness in the house.
- When a state certified laboratory test indicates nitrate concentrations above 10 milligrams per liter or any other nitrogen components increase and human or livestock waste is the suspected cause.

Also, if you are getting ready to sell your house, mortgage companies often require at least a total coliform test for homes with well water supplies before the sale.

If a water test indicates the presence of coliform bacteria, you should not drink the water or use it for cooking, brushing teeth, etc. Concerned about the potential for bacteria in your water? Contact Water-Flo to schedule a bacteria test and well inspection. Better Water, Better Air, Better Health!

Is your well cap up to code?

In Connecticut, there are currently no maintenance requirements for private well water systems.

Private well owners are responsible for the quality of their private well water and maintenance of their well water systems. Poorly maintained well water systems can be a way for pollutants to enter your drinking water. Proper maintenance of your well water system is an essential component to protecting the water quality supplied by your well. Even with proper maintenance, well water system equipment will eventually need repair or replacement. Here's one thing to look for: the blue well cap on the left is the currently approved style of cap, while the one on the right is the older style, which is no longer to code and should be replaced.



At least annually, you can do a quick and easy inspection of the exposed well casing and the area around it:

- *Is the exposed well steel casing in good shape? Look for cracks, holes or signs of corrosion.*
- *Is the well cap watertight? Check bolts, rubber gasket, seals.*
- *If there is an electrical conduit at the well cap, the wires should not be visible.*
- *Is the top of your well casing at least six inches above the ground?*

Beyond the yearly visual inspection, Water-Flo recommends that you have your water system and its components inspected annually or at least every other year.

Ask The Expert

Questions about your water or air quality? Here is your forum... Submit questions for next month and follow us on [FaceBook!](#)

Q: What should I do if bacteria is found in my well water?



A: If bacteria is found in your well water you should purchase bottled water until the problem is resolved. The most common method of eliminating bacteria is chlorination. During the process of chlorinating a well the technician may find the reason for the bacteria. It could be an out of code well cap or a hole in the casing. We recommend taking one test after the well is flushed out to see if you can start using the water again, and another test 30 days later to ensure the bacteria did not return. We also recommend making any repairs necessary to keep the wellhead secure. Should you get a positive re-test for bacteria you can either repeat the chlorination or install a UV sanitizer. A UV system treats bacteria for the whole house 24/7 and requires very little maintenance. Once a year the UV

bulb needs to be replaced.

More tips and answers to your questions can be found at our website: www.waterflo.com

*For 25 years, we've had the privilege of being an
integral part of your family's health & home.
Thank you!*



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