The following chart provides a quick reference for a number of primary, secondary, and other contaminants that are routinely tested in public water systems due to their set health limits. These should be among those considered for additional testing in private wells. The chart also includes some secondary contaminants which well owners may encounter. These tend to be more noticeable (by color, taste, or smell) and a nuisance, but in typical concentrations are not currently known to cause health risks.

**Other tests for consideration:**

Please refer to the CDC and EPA public health information sites listed in this brochure for detailed information on exposure (dose, frequency, length of exposure, toxicity, and route), susceptibility and health effects of these contaminants.

For more information on specific water contaminants and tests:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4791 or visit: water.epa.gov
- National Ground Water Association (NGWA): (800) 551-7379
- Sections of Environmental Epidemiology & Toxicology (SEET) at Louisiana State University: (225) 578-1708
- Louisiana State University Agricultural Center for Environmental Health: (225) 578-2409

For more information on aquifer monitoring and water quality:

- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources: (800) 662-5245 or visit: la.water.usgs.gov/
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LEQD), Business and Economic Development Reports — la.water.usgs.gov
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) safedw (888) or visit: water.epa.gov
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Water related Diseases and Contaminants in Private Wells cdc.gov/environmentalhealth/privatewells/index.html

To submit notification and register your private well water:

- DHH Louisiana Safe Drinking Water Program (SDWP): (225) 647-7060 or visit: privatewaterandsewage.dhh.louisiana.gov
- DHH Onsite Wastewater Program: (225) 344-2824 or visit: dhh.louisiana.gov/onsite
- US Geological Survey and Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development — la.water.usgs.gov/OFDHEM/DEQ

**What You Need to Know to Protect Your Water**

- Always run water for 5 minutes before using.
- Check your water system regularly for leaks or breaks.
- Avoid using chlorine (bleach) or fluoride in your water system.
- Keep your water system clean and well-maintained.
- Use a water filter if necessary.
- Wash your hands before and after handling the water system.
- Consult with a professional if you have concerns about the water system.

**Additional information on private well water and public safety:**

- Louisiana Ground Water Association (LGWA): (225) 299-0666 or visit: lgwa.org
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Water related Diseases and Contaminants in Private Wells cdc.gov/environmentalhealth/privatewells/index.html
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) safedw (888) or visit: water.epa.gov
- US Geological Survey and Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development — la.water.usgs.gov/OFDHEM/DEQ
- LSU Ag Center: water.epa.gov
- USGS - Louisiana Water Science Center

**For information on chemicals & their health effects:**

- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Section of Environmental Epidemiology & Toxicology (SEET) (225) 342-7136 or (888) 293-7202

**For more information on specific water contaminants and tests:**

- DHH Safe Drinking Water Program (SDWP) (225) 342-7499

**Environment:**

- The environment is the physical setting in which people live, work, and play. It includes air, water, land, and all living things. The environment can be divided into two parts:陆地环境和海洋环境。陆地环境包括土壤、岩石、植物、动物、微生物等，海洋环境则包括海洋生物、海底沉积物、海洋沉积物等。陆地环境和海洋环境是相互影响的，它们共同构成了地球环境。
In Louisiana, the individual well owner is responsible for testing their private well. DHHR enforces regulations such as the Safe Drinking Water Act for public water systems, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LEDAP), Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and USEPA conduct monitoring of aquifers and wells for pesticides and other potential contaminants. However, private wells in Louisiana are not currently required by any agency or law to be regularly tested to federal or state health standards. Individual well owners must take the necessary steps to ensure their water well is safe.

How often should I inspect and test my well?

Annual well inspection and testing for biological and chemical contaminants is the best way to monitor your well water for any problems. It is also important to have your well inspected and water tested:

- any time you notice a change in your water quality, especially if you notice a strange color, odor, or taste;
- a pregnant woman, infants or young children, elderly, or people with chronic disease or conditions that impair their immune system reside in the home;
- if there have been unexplained illnesses in the household, such as recurring gastrointestinal problems or skin irritations;
- if there has been a chemical or hazardous incident or spill near your home or well;
- following a hurricane, flood or major rainfall that may have contaminated the well;
- if contaminants have been found in a neighbor's water or reported to the local community (contact your parish sanitarian for reported or known problems in your area);
- if you live in an area that is prone to a specific type of water contamination, OR if you live near areas of extensive land development, construction (including highway expansion or repair), agriculture, animal operations, mining, oil or gas drilling, industrial or waste operations, or abandoned waste sites or wells.

Well Inspection and Maintenance—was my well properly constructed? Is it functioning properly?

The construction of water wells in Louisiana is regulated by the addresses of LAC 56:1 Chapter 3. In addition, the state sanitary code outlines how private water wells in Louisiana should be constructed to ensure water quality while maintaining the integrity of the underground water supply.

Safe distances must be maintained between wells and possible contamination sources to properly guard against flood waters drain away from the well (Title 51 Public Health Sanitary Code, Part XII. Water Supplies, §327 Ground Water Supplies). Protective features, such as impermeable well casings installed to the correct depth, and watertight well covers over venting, prevent flood waters entering, covering or contaminating well water by sediment or other pollutants. However, underground contamination sources will only be detectable with annual water sampling.

Routine inspection and maintenance of your well by a licensed contractor is the best way to ensure important features are in use, intact and functioning properly. You can locate a Louisiana licensed contractor in your local area through the Louisiana State Board of Health for Contractors; in the yellow pages under “Environmental Services,” or by contacting a local water well drilling company. Other contacts include the NGWA wellowner.org website and your local AgCenter or cooperative extension office.

He must to maintain the activities near the water source. This includes keeping all chemicals, gasoline, paint, pesticides, and solvents away from the well-head, and preventing backflow or cross-connections when using hoses with household, gardening, automotive or other purposes.

Well disinfection following a flood

Major rainfall events and hurricanes are common in Louisiana and they can impact the health and safety of your private water well. Storm damage and flooding often introduce pollution into the water system by overtopping well-heads and compromising containment systems. After a storm or flood, it is important to have your well and pump cleaned and inspected at LDAF and USEPA. Consult USEPA's federal standard protocols for emergency disinfection of private water wells following a storm. As a responsible Louisiana well owner you may be asked to "do-it-yourself," but to ensure health and safety it is best to have a professional, licensed contractor disinfect and test the well.

How do I test my water?

Water well owners can contact their parish sanitarian, usually located at the parish health unit, to get the latest information on private water well testing. He or she will advise you of any contaminants that are known problems in your area. Working closely with parish sanitarians and engineers through the Safe Drinking Water Program, state-certified labs may be available to perform some bacteriological or chemical tests on your private water well for a fee. A listing of state-certified labs is available at www.dhh.la.gov. Using the search feature type in “Laboratory Certification” to get listing. In other cases, parish sanitarians can refer well owners to local or national testing laboratories.

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