

News from the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EPA Recommends Homeowners Test Well Water Annually

Residents Should Contact the County Health Department for Information About Testing

SOMERVILLE, NJ – It is Groundwater Awareness Week when homeowners with private wells should remember to test their drinking water. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), homeowners should test their wells for harmful substances annually, or more frequently if a household member is pregnant, there are infants, or there has been a significant change in the odor, color, or taste of the water.

Even if there are no environmental concerns, testing well water is necessary because it will establish a record for future problems relating to well system treatment, repairs, or other environmental issues.

Maintenance

Homeowners can avoid contaminated well water by checking for cracks and leaks and not using pesticides, fertilizers, or other chemicals near the wellhead. Keeping the septic system in good working condition and avoid flushing chemicals down any drains is also important.

For information about safely maintaining a private well and to view inspection checklists, visit www.wellowner.org

Testing Kits and Resources

Residents can purchase discounted test kits through the Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA) to assess contaminants or hire a private lab.

To find out about testing kits and for a list of RHA events, visit www.testmywell.org or call the Well Testing Office at 908-234-1852, ext. 401.

For a list of certified water-testing laboratories, go to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/oqa/certlabs.htm>

General Information About Well Testing

The Somerset County Department of Health urges homeowners to contact their local health department for information about water testing, which will be specific to local water quality trends.

For more information and a directory of local health departments, visit the Somerset County Department of Health website at www.co.somerset.nj.us/health Residents can

also contact Somerset County Environmental Health Coordinator Lynette Dooley at 908-231-7155 or dooley@co.somerset.nj.us.

To stay up to date with Somerset County events and information, sign up for [free email alerts](#) at www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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