

# Sauk County

## Wisconsin

### Testing Your Well

If you are pregnant or have an infant younger than 12 months of age, the Sauk County Health Department will provide you with a free well water test kit. If not, purchase the Homeowner Package testing kit from UW Extension-Sauk County, located on the third floor of the West Square Building.

Follow the instructions below to test your own well. Make sure to sample on a Monday or Tuesday after 2 PM.

1. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water
2. Find a non-swivel METAL faucet. Remove the faucet screen or any other attachments
3. Flame the faucet with a torch or candle until hot in order to sterilize
4. Allow water to run for 5-10 minutes
5. Without touching the inside of the cap or mouth of the bottle, remove the cover from the Homeowner Package sample bottle



6. Slow water down to a pencil width stream and allow water to run for another 2 minutes
7. Fill bottle within 1/2 inch from the top. Avoid splashing.
8. Screw lid on tightly and check for leaks
9. Deliver your sample to a shipping facility so it is received within 40 hours of collection. Send to:

Water and Environmental Analysis Lab

UW Stevens Point

College of Natural Resources, Room 200

800 Reserve Street

Stevens Point, WI 54481

Please feel free to contact the lab at UW Stevens Point if you have questions regarding shipping or sampling directions. The number is 715-346-3209.

***If your well has high nitrates:***

If your results show nitrate levels above 10 ppm, do not boil your water. Boiling water increases nitrate concentration. Instead, switch to bottled water if there is an infant or pregnant woman in your home. You may also consider installing a water treatment system if your well nitrate concentrations are consistently high. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services offers a list of companies approved to treat nitrates. Visit the DSPS link below to find a contractor near you.

To reduce the risk of nitrate contamination, the Wisconsin DNR recommends reducing the amount of fertilizer used, improving methods of manure-handling, keeping your septic system in good condition, and pumping your septic tanks regularly to avoid overflow.

**Environmental Health**

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Suite #372  
505 Broadway  
Baraboo, WI 53913

**Phone:** (608) 355-3290

**Fax:** (608) 355-4329

**24/7 Line:** 1 (800) 533-5692

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