

Frequently Asked Questions

Groundwater Quality & Monitoring

Testing and Treating Private Groundwater Wells

How can I get my private groundwater well tested?

The OWRB does not conduct testing of water supply wells unless that well is part of an existing water quality monitoring program, such as GMAP. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) State Laboratory will be able to assist you. <https://www.deq.state.ok.us/CSDnew/index.htm>

Who should test my well?

The DEQ State Environmental Laboratory can test your well water. Other labs may perform testing if they are certified. You can check a lab's accreditation online. <https://www.deq.state.ok.us/csdnew/labcert.htm>

How much does it cost to test my well?

Cost will depend on the lab that you use and on the tests being run on your well water. For DEQ pricing, please visit https://www.deq.state.ok.us/CSDnew/SELSD_Home_Water_Testing_Prices.pdf

When should I test my drinking water well?

The DEQ has information and guidelines on when to test your well water.

<http://www.deq.state.ok.us/csdnew/HomeWaterTestingFAQ.pdf>

Should I treat or disinfect my well?

The DEQ has information and guidelines on when and how to disinfect your individual water well.

<http://www.deq.state.ok.us/factsheets/local/dsinfctwtr.pdf>

I am on a public water supply and interested in my water quality.

Check your annual drinking water report. DEQ is tasked with testing public water supply systems in Oklahoma. More information can be found at <https://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/pws/index.html>

Groundwater Monitoring and Assessment Program (GMAP)

What water quality parameters are tested for in GMAP?

The State Environmental Lab at Oklahoma's Department of Environmental Quality tested samples taken by the OWRB for the following water quality parameters:

Parameter	Method
Specific Conductance	SM2510-B
Nitrate+Nitrite	353.2
Ammonia	350.1
Total Dissolved Phosphorous	365.3
Sulfate	375.4
Chloride	325.2
Bromide	300.0 or SM4500-Br
Fluoride	300.0
Aluminum, Dissolved	200.8
Antimony, Dissolved	200.8
Arsenic, Dissolved	200.7
Barium, Dissolved	200.7
Beryllium, Dissolved	200.8
Boron, Dissolved	200.7
Cadmium, Dissolved	200.7
Calcium, Dissolved	200.7
Chromium, Dissolved	200.7
Cobalt, Dissolved	200.7

Parameter	Method
Copper, Dissolved	200.7
Iron, Dissolved	200.7
Lead, Dissolved	200.7
Magnesium, Dissolved	200.7
Manganese, Dissolved	200.7
Mercury, Dissolved	200.8
Molybdenum, Dissolved	200.7
Nickel, Dissolved	200.7
Potassium, Dissolved	200.7
Selenium, Dissolved	200.7
Silica, Dissolved	200.7
Silver, Dissolved	200.7
Sodium, Dissolved	200.7
Thallium, Dissolved	200.8
Uranium, Dissolved	200.8
Vanadium, Dissolved	200.7
Zinc, Dissolved	200.7
Total Dissolved Solids	SM2540-C

What is a contaminant?

A contaminant is an undesirable substance, which may or may not be naturally occurring, that taints the water source.

What is an MCL?

MCL stands for maximum contaminant level. MCL's are set by the U.S. EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act to limit levels of contaminants in drinking water. Primary MCL's address health concerns; secondary MCL's address concerns like taste & odor. More information on National Drinking Water Regulations can be found at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/index.cfm>

What are the potential health effects from these contaminants?

You can find information on potential health effects from the following agencies.

Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (English or Spanish)

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>

EPA, Drinking Water Contaminants <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/index.cfm>

EPA, Integrated Risk Information System <http://www.epa.gov/iris/index.html>

How did you choose wells sampled in GMAP?

Wells were randomly chosen from the OWRB's database of filed well completion reports. If the current owner of the property gave permission, the well was evaluated based on several factors to determine if the well was suitable for taking a water quality sample. We cannot take requests to include wells in GMAP. If you would like your well tested or treated, please see our Private Well FAQ's.

Does my well have a completion report?

Well drillers in Oklahoma are required by law to submit a report to the OWRB within 60 days of when a well is completed. Your well should have a report if it was drilled on or after 1985. You may search the OWRB's database here: <http://www.owrb.ok.gov/wd/search/search.php>

Where is the GMAP data?

The program's first round of sampling has concluded. Data is published in the BUMP report and in aquifer summaries which can be found here: <http://www.owrb.ok.gov/quality/monitoring/GMAP.php>. Data from this year's sampling efforts will be published as it becomes available.