

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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EHS Circular Letter # 2013-29

TO: Local Health Departments and Chief Sanitarians

FROM: Meg Harvey, Epidemiologist 4
Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program

DATE: May 1, 2013

RE: Recommendations for Private Well Testing

Attached for your use is an expanded and updated fact sheet providing testing recommendations for private wells. This fact sheet clarifies and strengthens our advice about what private well owners should test for and how frequently they should test their well water.

A major change is that we are now recommending that all private wells in CT be tested at least once for volatile organic chemicals (VOCs). Gasoline, oil or industrial chemicals spilled or leaked on the ground can be a source of VOCs in well water. Chemicals poured down the drain into a septic system can also pollute nearby private wells with VOCs. There are enough of these contamination situations across the state to warrant this new recommendation for VOC testing.

The fact sheet also contains testing recommendations for: basic potability indicators, lead, radon and fluoride. These are not new recommendations, but are presented in a concise and understandable format for the private well owner. Finally, our recently released recommendation that all private wells be tested for arsenic and uranium is also included in this fact sheet.

The fact sheet also contains an expanded table of water quality issues along with possible causes and recommended tests to help the private well owner identify, diagnose and correct water quality problems. Information about how to get water testing done, how to interpret test results and how to protect a well from contamination is also included in this updated private well fact sheet.

Please note that the testing recommendations in this fact sheet have no impact on a local health director's responsibilities under 19-13-B101; to require testing for and approval of new private wells. However, we encourage you to use the information in this fact sheet as you feel appropriate in your new well approval process. Additionally, we hope you use the fact sheet to help educate your residents about the importance of testing and protecting private wells - [Private Well Testing](#)

If you have any questions about this information, please call me at 860-509-7748.

Cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, M.S., M.P.H., Chief, EHS
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