

Drinking Water Testing Info Sheet for Well Owners



For property owners with private wells that are located outside a specified area of concern or testing area.

If you are seriously concerned with possible contamination of your well by PFOA, you may consider drinking bottled water (purchased at the store) to minimize any potential exposure until further information on the full extent of this contamination is determined.

You may also consider sampling your own well at your expense. Below is a list of labs in the U.S. that test water for PFOA, as well as a list of environmental consultants that you may consider hiring to help collect samples, analyze results, and manage the process.

- [List of Environmental Consultants](#)
- [List of EPA-Approved Labs for PFOA Testing*](#)

*Labs using EPA Method 537 can test for PFOA, and are highlighted in yellow.

Can I still fill out the online form to request a water sample?

The Department of Environmental Conservation is guaranteeing well testing for homes with private wells within designated areas of concern in North Bennington, Bennington, Shaftsbury, and Pownal.

A resident outside that area may request a sample using the online registration form for their respective town with the understanding that they will be added to a list of 'interested residents.' If the Department determines that testing outside the current designated area is warranted, residents on this list will be notified first.

Do I need a consultant to do this?

A consultant is not required in order to have your drinking water tested—some people simply prefer to pay a consultant so they do not have to make a call to the lab, organize shipping, interpret results, etc. If you want to ship the sample on your own, the lab will provide you with instructions.

Are there any labs in Vermont that can test for PFOA?

Unfortunately, there are no labs located in Vermont that have the specialized equipment required to test for PFOA.

Who can I share my results with?

If you test your own well for PFOA or other perfluorinated compounds, you can share your results with the Department of Environmental Conservation to add to the growing data set of sampling results. Send an e-mail with your analytical report attached to one of the following contacts depending on your town:

Bennington, North Bennington, Shaftsbury – Richard Spiese
richard.spiese@vermont.gov

Pownal –Trish Coppolino
patricia.coppolino@vermont.gov

Clarendon - Mike Nahmias
michael.nahmias@vermont.gov

Is there anything else I should be testing for in my water?

It is the responsibility of the homeowner to routinely test private water supplies for drinking water safety. If you are having your water tested for PFOA, you may consider doing a routine safety check of the following compounds:

- Inorganics (includes uranium, lead, arsenic, among other compounds)
- Total coliform (shows if your septic system is impacting your well, or if surface water is running into the well in some way)
- Nitrate (shows if nearby agriculture or your septic system is impacting your well)

Ask a consultant for guidance. More expensive tests for organic chemicals only really need to be used if:

1) your water smells or tastes "like gasoline," or 2) there is a nearby source of potential contamination.