

FSN-3

Well and Onsite Wastewater Facts  
Loudoun County Health Department  
July 2016

Typically, groundwater is naturally clean and safe for consumption. Because the overlying soil acts as a filter, groundwater is usually free of disease-causing microorganisms. However, contamination may occur following improper installation of well casings or caps, after a break in the casing or as a result of contaminated surface water entering the well. Contamination can also occur if wells are drilled in fractured bedrock without an adequate layer of protective soil.

Well Water

Service Desk  
(703) 777-0234

Proper siting, location, construction and maintenance of a well will help to minimize the likelihood of contamination. The well cap should be checked regularly to ensure that it is securely in place and watertight. Joints, cracks, and connections in the well casing should be sealed. Pumps and pipes should also be checked on a regular basis, and any changes in water quality should be investigated. Surface drainage should be directed away from the well casing, and surface water should not collect near the well.

In order to help prevent illness, well water should be tested for bacteriological quality regularly and for chemical contamination if it is suspected. In addition to regular tests, water should be tested immediately if there is any change in its clarity, color, odor or taste, or if there has been a change in the surrounding land use. Through regular assessment and testing of drinking water, the microbial and chemical safety of your well water can be determined.

The Loudoun County Health Department (LCHD) maintains a list of local labs for bacteriological sampling. For a complete list of approved laboratories visit: [www.dgs.state.va.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=GSVUufXhFLc%3d&tabid=508](http://www.dgs.state.va.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=GSVUufXhFLc%3d&tabid=508). Additional information for wells located in the Limestone Overlay District can be found on the page: "Limestone Geology Region" (<https://www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?nid=1455>).

## Local Labs for Bacteriological Sampling

HP Environmental, Inc.  
104 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA 20170  
(703) 471-4200

ESS Laboratories  
218 North Main Street  
Culpeper, VA 22030  
(540) 825-6660

Joiner Micro Laboratories, Inc.  
77-F W Lee Street  
Warrenton, VA 20186  
(540) 347-7212  
(800) 776-7924

Fredericktowne Laboratories, Inc.  
P.O. Box 245  
3020 Ventrise Court  
Myersville, MD 21773  
(301) 293-3340

Shenandoah Bacteriological Lab, Inc.  
460 Reynolds Road  
Cross Junction, VA 22625  
(540) 888-4500

Lapteff Associates  
14519 Telegraph Road  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
(703) 491-6700

Virginia American Water Company  
2223 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 549-7080

Martel Laboratories Services, Inc.  
1025 Cromwell Bridge Road  
Baltimore, MD 21286  
(410) 825-7790  
(410) 821-1054 fax

Greenway Engineering Lab  
151 Windy Hill Lane  
Winchester, VA 22602  
(540) 662-4185

Inboden Environmental Services Inc.  
5790 Main Street  
Mount Jackson, VA 22842  
(540) 477-3300  
(800) 648-1010

Aerobiology Laboratory  
43760 Trade Center Place  
Suite 100  
Dulles, VA 20166  
(877) 648-9150