

Why you should test your home's water before you buy or sell



Three reasons to test well water

1 Prevent illness

Coliform and *E. coli* bacteria indicate the presence of fecal contamination in the groundwater supply. Certain types of bacteria can cause acute gastrointestinal illness.

2 Protect long-term health

Naturally occurring and man-made chemicals, such as arsenic and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), can cause long-term health issues.

3 Avoid damage to pipes

Total dissolved solids and pH can affect taste and odor of your water and, in some cases, can cause damage to your pipes.

Make sure your well water is safe water

More than 13 million homes in the United States depend on private wells for water.¹ Without oversight from public utilities, it's important to have a certified laboratory test to make sure well water is safe for drinking. Remember, harmful bacteria and contaminants are often undetectable by sight or smell alone.

Well water should be tested at least once a year for bacterial contaminants, such as coliforms and *E. coli*. Before buying or selling a home with a well, consult with your local health agency about the need to test for any contaminants of local concern, such as arsenic, lead, nitrates, and radon.

Trust the industry leader

Your laboratory uses IDEXX Water tests to detect bacteria, such as *E. coli*, total coliforms, enterococci, *Pseudomonas* and *Legionella*.

IDEXX Water is the global industry leader in water microbiology testing and provides a full line of rapid, accurate water tests that ensure water quality and safeguard public health in communities worldwide.

What you need to know

Well-water testing requirements and recommendations vary by state and locality. Ask your real estate agent, local health department, and mortgage provider what tests are needed to:

- Protect your family.
- Secure your loan.
- Expedite your purchase or sale.

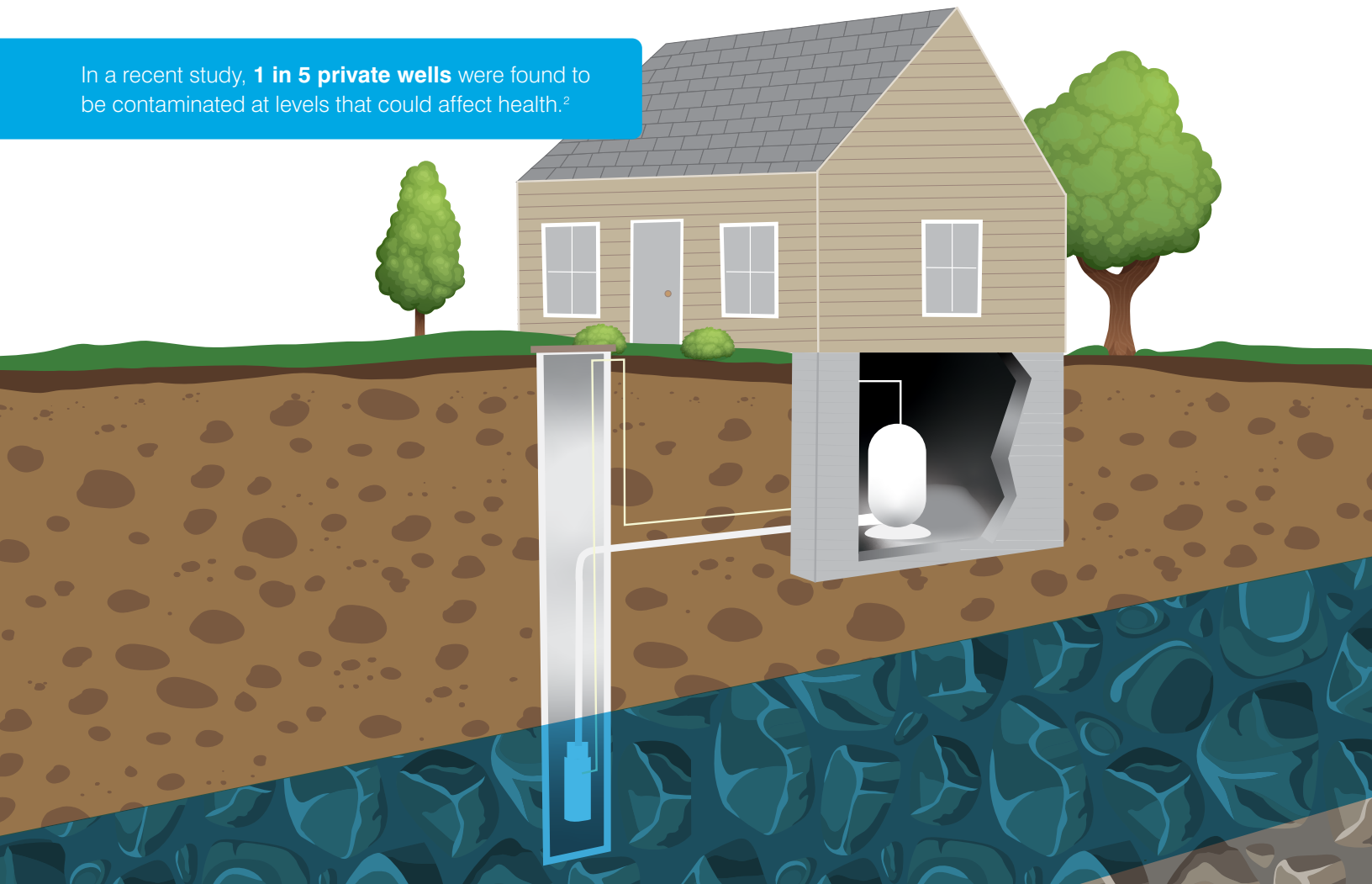
If you are selling a home with a well:

- Schedule your annual drinking water test before listing your property.
- Increase your home's appeal and offer peace of-mind with proof of water safety.

If you are buying a home with a well:

- Complete and review water testing before closing on the property.
- Make sales contracts contingent on test results.

In a recent study, **1 in 5 private wells** were found to be contaminated at levels that could affect health.²



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ISO 14001 CERTIFIED

References

1. US Census Bureau; US Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2019 American Housing Survey. www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs.html. Data released September 16, 2020. Accessed September 23, 2020.
2. DeSimone LA, Hamilton PA, Gilliom RJ. *Quality of Water from Domestic Wells in Principal Aquifers of the United States, 1991–2004: Overview of Major Findings*. Reston, VA: US Geological Survey; 2009:17. Circular 1332. pubs.usgs.gov/circ/circ1332/includes/circ1332.pdf. Revised May 2009. Accessed September 23, 2020.

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