

Water Testing

For those of us who live inside city limits or subdivisions that are connected to a local water district, water sampling is not as important as if you live in a house that the source of your drinking water is from a private well. It is imperative to collect samples and send them to a laboratory on regular bases.

Underground water sources are always at risk of various contaminations. The two most common are sewage and chemical contamination. With the exception of some parasites, there are hardly any cases of contamination that could be seen by eye. In order to determine if the water has been contaminated, laboratory tests must be performed.

The most common test to determine contamination with sewage is **Coliform Total Count**. In this test by utilizing microbiological method, utilizing microbiological method tests water tested for existence of **Eschericia Coli (E. Coli)**. **E.Coli (coliform)** is a bacterium, which its main habitat is the large intestine of human. The existence of E. Coli in drinking water could be a indication of sewage contamination.

Ground water sources might have slight contamination with soil bacteria and also some parasites such as Cyclops. In order to get the best quality of water, following steps should be followed.

- Hiring a professional, licensed well driller
- Complying with all sanitary easement requirements
- Complying with all plumbing requirements
- Installing and maintaining a chlorinator at the well
- Collecting water samples and submitting them to the laboratory

A Food Service Establishment, which utilizes a private well, must have the water tested at least once a month. There is not any law pertaining to families who have a well. We strongly recommend that homeowners have their water well tested at least every six months.

If you are a Fort Bend County resident you can always stop by the Environmental Health Division offices and pick up the proper container, related forms and instructions.

Do not collect the sample in an unapproved container.

As a *courtesy carrier* our office accepts water samples every Wednesday between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm. Our office is located at 4520 Reading Road Suite "A" Rosenberg TX. 77471. Your sample must be submitted by 12am as the delivery

We deliver these the samples to City Of Houston Laboratory, located at 115 South Braeswood Houston, Texas 77030. 713-558-3474. If you cannot get your sample to our offices, you can deliver the samples directly to the Houston lab. Make sure you have the proper container.

If you are concerned about chemicals or other possible contaminates in your water, you must submit sample to a private laboratory. The best reference for these Labs is yellow pages and any other public information system. You will always find those organizations under Environmental Services, Laboratories or Chemical Lab. They will test your water for existence of any chemical that you are concerned about.

The government agency in Texas with the most authority on water wells is Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC). For any further questions about water wells, the best source is TNRCC. You can visit their website at <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us>.

If you live in a subdivision that is connected to a mud district or municipal utility district and you have concerns about the quality of the water, you have two options. You may contact your water provider and submit a request for a copy of the required yearly Analysis. The second option is to contact TNRCC.

Thanks for visiting the website of Fort Bend County Environmental Health Division