

# Should I Have My Well Water Tested?

## **WATER IS ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE...**

Doctors recommend that we drink at least 8 glasses of water a day. That's about 4 gallons a week or 200 gallons a year. Many of us take our water for granted and never consider testing it to be sure it is safe. It may be that some of us are afraid to have our water tested because we are not sure of what may be found. Fortunately, many problems that can occur with private wells and drinking water have solutions.

## **WELL CONSTRUCTION IS IMPORTANT IN PROTECTING YOUR DRINKING WATER...**

On January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 Mecklenburg County implemented Groundwater Well Regulations. This means that **BEFORE** you have a new well drilled, a permit application needs to be submitted and approved by our department to ensure that your well is installed in accordance with specified standards. In addition, certain repair work to existing wells requires a permit. Only a North Carolina Certified Well Contractor can legally install or repair wells in Mecklenburg County.

## **WHEN SHOULD I HAVE MY WATER TESTED?**

GWS recommends private well owners test their water for bacterial contamination every year. In addition, the water can be tested for a variety of inorganic, mineral and toxic metals, volatile organic compounds, pesticides, and herbicides. If you notice any change in your water, it should be tested. GWS also recommends you have your water tested after any repair work is done to a well. All new wells are tested as part of the permitting process and the cost is included in the permit fees. If you haven't had your well water tested in the past year, **NOW** is a good time to have it done.

## **PUBLIC WATER, SHOULD I HAVE THE WATER TESTED?**

If you drink water from a community or municipal water source, your water is tested on a regular basis as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The USEPA mandates yearly reporting of these results to all consumers. If you have questions about your municipal or community water contact your supplier for a copy of the most recent report.

## **MECKLENBURG COUNTY GROUNDWATER & WASTEWATER SERVICES (GWS) OFFERS:**

- Unbiased and accurate information and results
- Collection of the samples from your home and delivery to a state certified laboratory that will conduct the analyses
- Health risk assessments & consultation if any problems are found
- No sales pressure - PUBLIC HEALTH is our business

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### **APPLICATION FOR SAMPLING A WATER SUPPLY WELL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: (Same as site address)

#### **Option #1**

Inorganic Analysis (includes: bacteria, nitrate, nitrite, pH, hardness, lead, arsenic, iron, manganese, copper, zinc, calcium, magnesium, alkalinity, chloride, fluoride, silver, barium, cadmium, manganese, sodium, and selenium) \$65.00

#### **Option #2**

*(includes Inorganic Analysis listed above)*

Volatile Organic Compounds & Pesticides \$200.00

Is there a working spigot on the outside of the house?    Yes    No

Are there any dogs at the property?    Yes    No

*(If dogs are present they must be restrained at the time of sampling.)*

*Please include a check made payable to the Mecklenburg County Health Department and mail to:*



Mecklenburg County Health Department  
700 North Tryon Street, Suite 211 Charlotte, NC 28202  
Phone: (704) 336-5103 Fax: (704) 336-6894  
<http://groundwater.charmeck.org>