



## Teton County, ID Residents Eligible for Well Water Test Kit Cost Share

Friends of the Teton River (FTR) is continuing our well water test kit cost-share program for Teton Valley, ID residents this summer. Private well owners in Teton Valley, ID have the opportunity to participate in this cost-share program for convenient well water testing at an affordable price. This program will offer subsidized well water test kits on a first come, first served basis until all kits are distributed. Total retail value of each kit is \$80 but the cost-share program will make kits available to well owners for only \$46. Well water analysis will be completed at a certified lab. Participation in this cost share program acknowledges that test results will be shared with FTR, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Teton Conservation District. Any results of this program will be reported in anonymous summary form and individual results will not become part of public record. This program is made possible by grants from the Community Foundation of Teton Valley and Silver Star Communications.

### Why and When to Test Your Well Water

All Teton County residents living outside city limits and using water from a private well are responsible for the testing, operation, and maintenance of their well to ensure that well water is safe to drink. Teton County, ID residents generally enjoy very high-quality drinking water due to Teton County, Idaho’s low density, rural population and its location high in the headwaters of the Teton River Watershed. However, it is important to note that some areas of Teton County, ID do have elevated nitrate levels caused by improperly maintained septic systems, personal or commercial fertilizer use, animal waste, or a combination of those factors. Also in Idaho, there are pockets of Arsenic and Fluoride due to underlying geology of the area. Considering these factors, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare recommends that all Idaho private well owners follow these testing guidelines:

Type of Contaminant	When to Test	When to Treat
Bacteria	Once a year	Treat any amount
Nitrate	Once a year	If 10 mg/L or higher
Nitrite	Once a year	If 1 mg/L or higher
Arsenic	Once every 3-5 years	If 0.01 mg/L or higher
Uranium	Once every 3-5 years	If 30 µg/L or higher
Fluoride	Once every 3-5 years	If 4 mg/L or higher

In addition to the above recommended testing schedule, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare also recommends that you test your water *IMMEDIATELY* if:

- You notice a change in color, smell, or taste of your water
- Your neighbors have found contaminants in their water
- There has been flooding near your well
- You are concerned about water quality and are unsure if your water is safe



## H2Know Your Well Water

This summer FTR has 30 well water test kits to distribute on a first come, first served basis. Each base H2Know Your Well Water test kit costs \$46 and can be paid directly to FTR by check or credit card. Kits will be available to pick up at the Teton Valley Farmers Market on July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>. Kits are also available at the FTR office in Driggs. Completed kits must be returned between 7:00am - 10:00 am on August 17<sup>th</sup> to your designated drop off location in Victor or Driggs (preference designated at kit pick up).

### Test Kit includes the following tests:

Total Coliform Presence/Absence (Bacteria)
Nitrate + Nitrite as N
Chloride
Sulfate

## How to Participate

### Step 1: Pay for your well water test kit online and pick it up at the FTR office.

Well water test kits can be purchased online at the FTR store [www.tetonwater.org/store/](http://www.tetonwater.org/store/), at the Teton Valley Farmers Market on July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>, or at the FTR office in Driggs. You will be asked to designate your drop off location (Victor or Driggs) at the time of test kit pick up. If you wish to purchase any of the additional tests, please specify on your Chain of Custody form and include a check payable to IAS EnviroChem for the total amount of the additional tests or call (208) 237-3300 to make a payment over the phone.

### Step 2: Complete both of the Chain of Custody forms and the Water Source Survey form

The lab requires that the chain of custody forms must be filled out completely to process samples.

### Step 3: Fill sampling containers on the morning of August 17<sup>th</sup> carefully following sampling instructions included in kit

Tests must be received within 30 hours of collection. ***Do not fill sampling containers the night before.***

### Step 4: Drop off full sample containers, completed Chain of Custody, Water Source Survey, and payment for any additional tests on August 17<sup>th</sup> anytime between 7:00am - 10:00 am at your designated drop off location.



## Water Source Survey

*This information is being collected for groundwater monitoring purposes and will be attached to your test kit results to help us better understand local water quality trends. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.*

**Owner/Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Well was Drilled (or approximate age of well in years):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Depth of Well:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Well Tag Number (located on metal tag attached to well casing):** \_\_\_\_\_

**General conditions of well head (poor, fair, excellent):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have a private septic system?**  Yes  No

**If yes, when was it built?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Estimated distance from well** \_\_\_\_\_

**Animals near or around well?**  Yes  No

**If yes, how close and how many head?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Have you tested your well water for quality previously?**  Yes  No

**If yes, any problems identified?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Test Kit Number:** \_\_\_\_\_