



Teton County, ID Well Water Testing Program

Summer 2022

Friends of the Teton River (FTR) is continuing our well water testing program for Teton Valley, ID residents this summer. Private well owners in Teton Valley, ID have the opportunity to participate in this program for convenient well water testing at an affordable price. This program will offer a group order for well water test kits and group shipping to the laboratory in Pocatello, ID. Total retail value of each kit is \$105 with \$5 shipping and handling. Additional analytes are available for testing upon request. **Participation in this 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.

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 will host a sign-up sheet for individuals interested in well water testing with simple logistics. FTR will place a group order for well water test kits and make them available for pick-up in Driggs, Idaho. FTR will then collect your water samples and arrange shipping back to the Lab in Pocatello. Well water samples need to be returned to the lab and analyzed within 30 hours of collection. By participating in this program, you can test your well water without driving to Pocatello or arranging the expedited shipping required for analyzing samples.

The [sign-up sheet](#) for well water test kit orders will close on **Friday, September 2nd**. Orders will be placed to the lab and test kits will be available for pick up at the FTR office between **September 19-22nd** or at the Teton Valley Farmers Market on **September 23rd**. Water samples will be collected on **Monday, September 26th** between 7:00am - 10:00 am at your designated drop off location in Victor or Driggs.

Each Well Water test kit costs \$110 and can be paid directly to [FTR](#).

Test Kit includes the following tests:

Total Coliform Presence/Absence (Bacteria)	\$25
Nitrate + Nitrite as N	\$20
Chloride	\$20
Sulfate	\$20



How to Participate

Step 1: Sign-up for the well water testing program and pay for your well water test kit online.

You can sign-up by following this link: <https://forms.gle/uqEKik5qErDHNcfa7> and well water test kits can be purchased online at the [FTR store](#). You will be asked to designate your drop off location (Victor or Driggs) when you sign-up.

Step 2: Pick up your kit at the FTR office, or Teton Valley Farmer's Market.

Well water test kits will be available for pick up during the week of September 19-23rd. You may pick up your kit at the FTR office on Monday - Thursday between 10:00am and 3:00pm. Kits will also be available for pick-up at the Teton Valley Farmers Market on Friday September 23rd.

Step 3: Complete both Chain of Custody forms and the Water Source Survey form then Fill sampling containers on the morning of September 26th carefully following sampling instructions included in kit

Tests must be received within 30 hours of collection. ***Do not fill sampling containers the night before.*** The lab requires that the chain of custody forms must be filled out completely to process samples.

Step 4: Drop off full sample containers, completed Chain of Custody, and Water Source Survey, on September 26th 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?

—

Test Kit Number: _____