

## Friends of the Teton River Well Water Testing Program

**Summer 2024**

Friends of the Teton River (FTR) is continuing our well water testing program for Teton watershed residents this summer. Private well owners 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. The Test Kit includes analysis for Bacteria, Nitrate, Nitrite, Chloride and Sulfate and costs \$125. Detailed pricing information below.

**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.

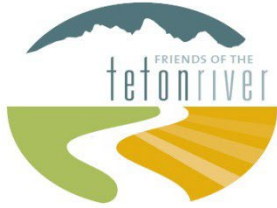
### Why and When to Test Your Well Water

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 watershed residents generally enjoy very high-quality drinking water due to the area'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 do have elevated nitrate levels caused by improperly maintained septic systems, personal or commercial fertilizer use, animal waste, or a combination of those factors. 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

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

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 **Monday, August 19th**. Orders will be placed to the lab and test kits will be available for pick up at the Teton Valley Farmers Market on **Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> between 9:00am-1:00pm**. Water samples will be collected on **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> between 7:00am-9:00am** at your designated drop off location in Victor or Driggs.

You can purchase your test kit through the [FTR](#) website.

### Basic Test Kit includes the following tests:

Total Coliform Presence/Absence (Bacteria)	\$35
Nitrate: N	\$20
Nitrite: N	\$20
Chloride	\$20
Sulfate	\$20
Total	\$115

**Shipping and Handling: \$10**



## 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: [Well Water Test Kit Sign-up 2024 - Google Forms](#) and well water test kits can be purchased online at the [FTR store](#). You must sign up AND purchase the kit. 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 Teton Valley Farmer's Market in Driggs.**

Well water test kits will be available for pick up at the Teton Valley Farmers Market on Friday, **September 6<sup>th</sup>, between 9:00am and 1:00pm.**

**Step 3: Complete both Chain of Custody forms and the Water Source Survey form then fill sampling containers on the morning of September 11th carefully following sampling instructions included in kit**

Sampling instructional video: [SAMPLING | Potable Water Sampling Training](#)

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 11th anytime between 7:00am-9:00am at your designated drop off location.**