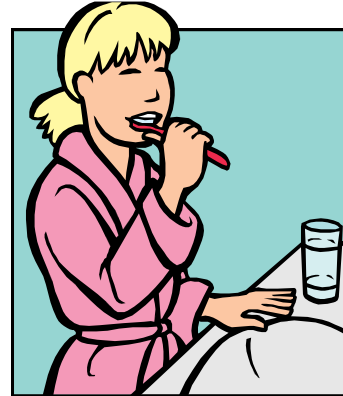


# Arsenic in Indiana Groundwater:

## Residential Wells

Household well water is generally more at risk to contaminants than public water supplies because private wells do not have to be tested. The only way to know if arsenic is present in well water is to have the water tested. Most experts suggest testing well water at least once a year because water quality changes can occur within a groundwater system. Understanding the occurrence of arsenic in Indiana groundwater is difficult, but professionals are working together to document and study arsenic levels throughout the state. Provided below is information for Indiana residence to help make better decisions and to ensure safe well drinking water.



### Helpful resources:

**Groundwater and Water Well Basics** – The National Ground Water Association provides general information on groundwater and all aspects of owning a water well on their website. [Well Water Basics](#), [Maintenance](#), and [Water Quality](#) provide general information on owning a well and maintaining it for healthy drinking water. The National Ground Water Association maintains this site: <http://wellowner.org/>

**Arsenic Basic Information** – Indiana Water Monitoring Groundwater Focus Committee Publication, 2013. [\[Tablet\]](#) [\[Brochure-8.5x11\]](#) [\[Brochure-11x14\]](#)

**2014 Arsenic Testing Program** – Indiana Department of Environmental Management is seeking well owners in all 92 counties in Indiana to take part in the Groundwater Monitoring Network. Testing for metals *including arsenic*, nitrate-nitrite, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs), alkalinity, pesticide degradates, and general chemistry will be conducted **FREE of charge** for 400 qualified well owners across the state. <http://www.in.gov/idem/6892.htm>

**Enhanced Water Well Web Viewer** – This site uses a map viewer for locating water well records within Indiana. The information contained in these records can be an important first step into discovering the characteristics of your well. Wells drilled since 1959 require a water well record to be submitted to the state which includes information on the location of the well, the depth and diameter of the well, the date the contractor completed the well, the character and thickness of materials or formations drilled, and the static water level and performance data of the well. Indiana Department of Natural Resources maintains this site, <http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/6604.htm>.

**Local Assistance** – Sometimes your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) or Health Department may have resources for assisting in arsenic testing. Here are a list of contact information for the SWCD's: <http://iaswcd.org/contact-districts.html> and Health Departments: <http://www.state.in.us/isdh/24822.htm>

**Procedures for Testing your Well Water** – Collecting a sample for analysis may seem complex, but following these simple guidelines can ensure collection of a water sample suitable for testing. This general guide is provided by Purdue Extension and is relevant for a variety of tests. The laboratory may have additional or alternative methods specific for the arsenic test that you should follow. <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/wq/wq-3.html>

**Certified Laboratories** – Indiana State Department of Health maintains a list of Certified Drinking Water Chemistry Laboratories. Select a laboratory from this list and see the variety of tests they can perform on well water. This list of Certified Laboratories also indicates the parameters they can test for <http://www.in.gov/isdh/22452.htm>. Here is the list of laboratories certified specifically for arsenic [http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Indiana\\_arsenic\\_testing\\_laboratories.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Indiana_arsenic_testing_laboratories.pdf)

**Take the Free Lesson and Receive Certification** – The National Groundwater Association provides Well Owner Lessons on their website. About half way down the page under **Free Online Lessons** is *Arsenic in Well Water: What Is It and What Do You Do?* Check it out here <http://wellowner.org/well-owner-lessons/>

**Sampling Frequency** – You should test for arsenic at least once or twice a year to determine if the risk for exposure is present. Arsenic levels can suddenly appear if large water table fluctuations occur. If you have experienced a dry well for any reason, you should re-test your well after this incident to ensure arsenic levels have not increased. If your initial test finds trace levels, you should regularly test your well to monitor the levels in your water.

### **Provide Your Sample Data to InWMC Groundwater Focus Committee**

The groundwater focus committee is currently collecting arsenic data from all entities and individuals, positive and negative results. If you would like to provide your arsenic, nitrate, or other test results, email [arsenic@inwmc.org](mailto:arsenic@inwmc.org) the lab results sheet. This information will help with future data studies and help determine the extent and degree of arsenic levels throughout the state. If indicated, they will keep your results confidential when using your data for their study.

*This page written and maintained by the InWMC Groundwater Focus Committee.*