

## Hours

Call ahead if you plan to arrive between noon and 1 p.m.

Monday  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday  
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursday  
8 a.m. - noon

## Accredited

The Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health Laboratory is certified by the Minnesota Department of Health in the Safe Drinking Water Program to test for coliform bacteria, including E. coli and nitrates.

## Results

Test results will be available 48 hours from the time the sample is dropped off at the lab.

If your water is found to contain coliform bacteria or E.coli, it is considered unsafe to drink. You will be provided instructions to perform a simple chlorination procedure to disinfect your water.

## Location

555 Cedar Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

The public health laboratory is located in downtown Saint Paul in the Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health Center (Juenemann Building) on the block bordered by Wabasha, Cedar, 10th and 11th Streets.

Client parking is available behind the building. Please park in the non-numbered spaces.



Saint Paul - Ramsey County  
Public Health Laboratory  
555 Cedar Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55101  
651-266-1321

sprcph.laboratory@co.ramsey.mn.us  
www.ramseycounty.us

# Well Water Testing

651-266-1321



## Well Water Testing

Contaminated drinking water transmits a variety of diseases. Wells should be tested once a year as an important health and safety precaution.

Well water should also be tested:

- Any time the water changes in taste, odor or appearance.
- If the well is located in an area of flooding.



## Why is Testing Important

It is not practical to test water for every disease-causing bacterium, virus or protozoan. Water is tested for the total coliform group. This test measures the safety of the well and water system.

### Nitrate-Nitrogen

Water containing nitrate-nitrogen that exceeds 10 mg/L can cause serious health problems in infants under 6 months old.

## How to Test Well Water

Call 651-266-1321 or visit [ramseycounty.us](http://ramseycounty.us) (search: well water) to have a well water collection kit mailed to you.

- The kit contains instructions for water collection, a sterile plastic sample bag, information sheet and well water sample submission form.
- Samples cannot be accepted in personal containers or bags.

**Water samples are accepted from both home and vacation properties.**

**You do not need to be a resident of Ramsey County.**



## Types of Tests

Tests will analyze the concentration of nitrate-nitrogen and the presence of coliform bacteria, including *E. coli* in drinking water.

Testing will not identify chemical contamination. If testing other than coliform bacteria and nitrates is needed, a list of certified laboratories can be found on the Minnesota Department of Health website ([www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)) by searching "well water testing".

### Coliform Bacteria

Coliform bacteria are everywhere on the surface of the ground, but usually don't occur deeper in the soil. If coliform bacteria show up in a water test, that indicates surface contamination has gotten into the water and disease organisms might be present.

### *E. coli*

*E. coli* found in well water indicates fecal contamination and could cause infectious diseases.

- Samples should be chilled immediately by placing the sealed sterile bag in a cooler (with ice) and transported to the lab as soon as possible.
- Samples need to be dropped off at the lab within 30 hours of collection.
- Bring your payment, water sample and completed submission form to the lab.

### Cost

Call or visit the website for current pricing.