

Delaware Township Well Water Testing 2023

Private well owners are responsible for the safety of their water and regular testing is the only way to know for certain that the water is safe to drink. Each year, Delaware Township holds a water testing event enabling residents the opportunity to test their drinking water conveniently and affordably for a variety of contaminants. The Community Well Test Event was held on September 20th and 23rd at the Delaware Township Municipal Building. In total, 64 residents attended the event to have their well water tested and 56 of those returned their samples on Monday, September 25th.

The following chart is a summary of data collected from these 56 wells on Primary Contaminants of Concern:

Contaminant	# wells tested in 2022	Limit or MCL*	Range of results (ND=NonDetect)	# wells exceeding MCL
Coliform bacteria	54	Absent	Absent - Present	14
E.coli	54	Absent	Absent - Present	2
Nitrate	54	10 mg/L	ND - 6.26 mg/L	0
Lead	11	15 ppb	ND -11.4 ppb	0
Radon	13	2000 pCi/L**	ND - 6640 pCi/L	5
Gross Alpha	13	15 pCi/L	ND - 10.1 pCi/L	0
Volatile Organic Compounds (62 chemicals)	9	Varies	ND	0
Arsenic	31	5 ppb	ND - 10.0 ppb	1
PFOS	2	13 ppt	ND - 2.8 ppt	0
PFNA	2	13 ppt	ND	0
PFOA	2	14 ppt	ND - 4.1 ppt	0

* Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The maximum level of a contaminant which is permitted in public water supplies. Maximum contaminant levels are specified in the Primary Drinking Water Standards set by EPA for contaminants that affect the safety of public drinking water.

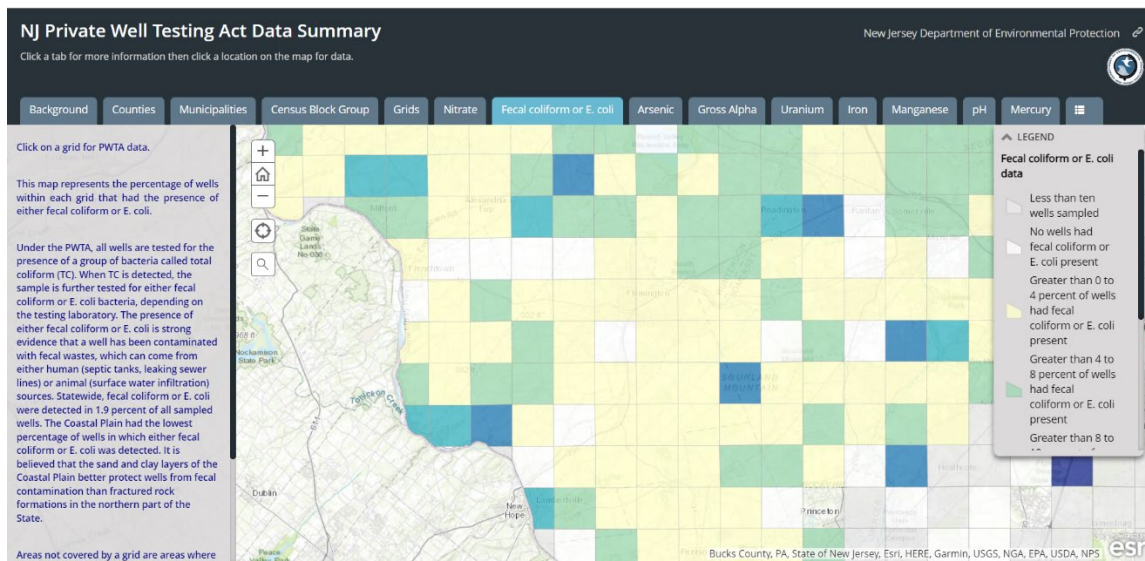
** There is no standard set in NJ for radon in water. Standards set in other states in our region are used as guidelines. The most protective of these standards is 2000 pCi/L in New Hampshire.

There are approximately 1885 private wells in Delaware Township. Under the New Jersey Private Well Testing Act (PwTA) which was signed into law in 2001, wells must be tested for an array of contaminants upon transfer of ownership or if there is a rental on the property. The NJDEP collects and publishes data on the results of the testing which may be explored at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/pwta/>. In Delaware Township, 663 wells have been tested as mandated under the PwTA between 2002 and 2022. The following table summarizes available data for Delaware Township on the percent of exceedances for individual contaminants including the number of wells tested under PwTA.

Municipality	Delaware Township, Hunterdon County
Nitrate	0.5%, (663 wells sampled)
Arsenic	21.9%, (663 wells sampled)
Iron	15.7%, (663 wells sampled)
Manganese	18.7%, (663 wells sampled)
Gross Alpha*	11.9%, (599 wells sampled)
VOC	0.3%, (663 wells sampled)
Fecal coliform or E. coli	4.2%, (663 wells sampled)
pH	24%, (662 wells sampled)

*Gross Alpha (radiation screen) testing became a requirement under the PwTA in 2018

**PFAS testing became a requirement under the PwTA in December of 2021.



Based on available data and current public health guidelines, residents of Delaware are encouraged to test their wells annually for coliform bacteria and nitrates. Those residents living in older homes, built before 1987 are at greater risk of lead exposure from older pipes and solder and should test for lead in their water every 5 years. At least one test for radon and gross alpha are also highly recommended to ensure that members of your household are not exposed to these naturally occurring carcinogens.

Furthermore, residents can protect their water supply by carefully managing activities on their property and near the well. This includes keeping hazardous chemicals out of septic systems, pumping their septic system every 3 years, and limiting the application of fertilizers to lawns and gardens.