



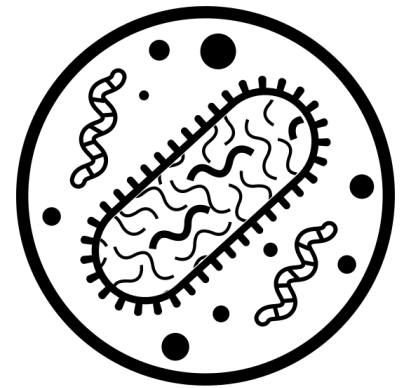
Understanding Your Well Water Report

Total Coliform & E. coli

What is total coliform and E. coli?

Total coliform bacteria are bacteria found in the environment and feces (poop) from humans and animals. Most types of coliform bacteria will not make you sick. But if you have total coliform bacteria in your well, you might have bacteria like *E. coli*.

E. coli is a type of coliform bacteria. Some types of *E. coli* can make you sick.



If your water report says...

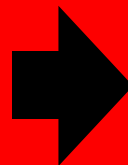
Then your water is...

Satisfactory, absent, non-detect (ND),
or 0 CFU/100 mL
for total coliform or E. coli



SAFE
to drink

Unsatisfactory, present,
or more than 0 CFU/100 mL
for total coliform or E. coli



NOT SAFE
to drink

How can I use my water if it has **total coliform or E. coli**?

Instead of well water
you can drink



Drinking



Cooking



Brushing
teeth



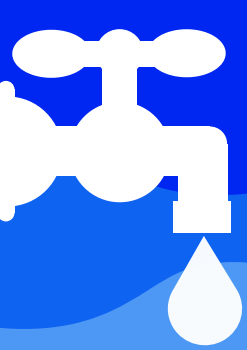
Bathing



Boiling water
for 1 minute



Bottled water



Understanding Your Well Water Report

Total Coliform & E. coli

What can I do if my water has **total coliform or E. coli**?



1 Re-test your well

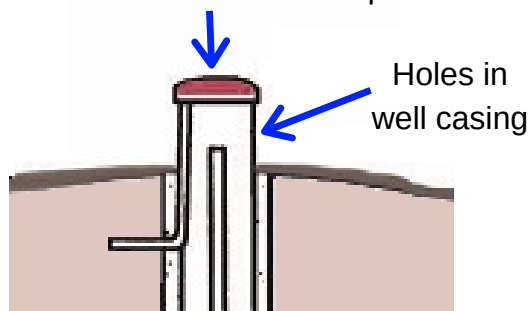
It's easy to accidentally get bacteria in a test bottle. Re-test using instructions from the WA State Dept. of Health: www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/331-222.pdf



2 Check your well for damage

Check the cap and casing for damage. You can also hire a professional to inspect and repair your well.

Broken seals or torn screens in the well cap



3 Remove sources of bacteria

Bacteria can come from many places. This could be septic tanks that aren't working well, pools of water near the well, and animal waste (poop).



4 Disinfect your well

You can hire a well professional to disinfect your well. You can also do it yourself. You will add bleach to the well and run the bleach water through your water pipes. Contact the Yakima Health District for detailed instructions.



5 Re-test your well

After the smell of chlorine is gone, wait 2 to 3 days. Then test your well to make sure the bacteria is gone.

Well Professionals

To find a well professional, search for "well driller" or "well pump installer" on the internet or the yellow pages.

Only hire well professionals with a Washington State license.



Questions?

Yakima Health District
(509) 249-6508

<https://yakimacounty.us/275/Health-District>

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