

Hopewell Township Environmental Newsletter

A Publication of the Environmental Commission

Meetings

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month @ 7 PM except for November and December when meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Environmental Commission Members

- Jerry Lewis - Chair
- Jane Hankins - Vice Chair
- Beth McClain - Secretary
- Ken Strait - Liaison to Land Use Board
- Burt Doremus
- Marion Carll



Free Private Well Testing Program Available for Hopewell Residents

Hopewell Township
and
New Jersey Department of Health
Invite and encourage private well owners to sign up for
Free private well testing



Register online at: bit.ly/hopewelltesting

- Gross alpha (radioactivity from naturally occurring radium) is associated with an **increased risk of cancer** from chronic exposure and young children may be especially vulnerable.
- Did you know **more than half** of all wells tested in Hopewell Township have high levels of gross alpha?
- Lead can enter your drinking water from plumbing materials that may contain lead. Low pH water (acidic water) may increase the amount of lead dissolved in water. **There is no safe level of lead.**
- Both gross alpha and lead are odorless, tasteless and colorless in water. **Testing is the only way to know for certain if they are in your water.**

Contact us with questions or for assistance:
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Drinking Water Facts

About 12% of NJ residents get their drinking water from private wells. While public water supplies are protected under State and Federal regulations, private well owners are responsible for monitoring the quality of their drinking water and for maintaining their own wells. Drinking water can be contaminated by natural sources, like bedrock, or from man-made sources, like agricultural run-off, waste sites, disinfection chemicals, or plumbing fixtures. Regular water testing is an important step that private well owners, can take to ensure that their water supply is both safe to drink and appealing to use.*

The *NJ Private Well Testing Act* became effective in September 2002. It requires the testing of raw (untreated) water from private wells whenever a property is transferred by contract of sale. Testing is also required every five years if the property is leased. Regular well testing has the added benefit of establishing a record of your water quality over time and providing potential buyers with valuable information if you ever sell your home.

Well water should be tested at least every year for total coliform, nitrates, and pH; every 5 years for lead, VOCs**, arsenic, manganese and iron; and at least one for Mercury, gross alpha (radium) and uranium.

*Consumer, Environmental & Occupational Health Service, NJ Department of Health 2019

**Volatile organic compounds

Free Private Well Testing Program

The New Jersey Department of Health is once again offering this free program for all Hopewell residents.

Why should I test my private well?

- * To ensure your water is safe to drink. Regular testing can help identify the presence of contaminants in your water supply which may go unnoticed
- * If there is known or suspected well water contamination in your area
- * Unpleasant taste, smell, and appearance
- * Real estate transactions and every 5 years for rental properties is mandatory through the NJ PWTA
- * Common contaminates in NJ - arsenic and radionuclides - Gross alpha

What factors can make my well susceptible to contamination?

- * Type, age, depth and location of well
- * Construction and maintenance of your well
- * Natural characteristics of your local geology, ground water, recent weather, and long-term climate
- * Characteristics of your household plumbing materials and well components
- * Septic tanks and household waste disposal practices
- * Local land use activities
- * Known or suspected private well contamination

For more information contact:

- ✦ New Jersey Department of Health
- ✦ New Jersey Private Well Testing Act
- ✦ DEP's Radiation Protection and Release Prevention Programs
www.state.nj.us/dep/rpp/radwater.htm