

Delaware Township Well Water Testing 2024

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 partners with Raritan Headwaters Association to hold a water testing event enabling residents the opportunity to test their drinking water conveniently and affordably for a variety of contaminants. The 2024 Community Well Testing event sales were held on September 18th and September 21st at the Delaware Township Municipal Building. In total, 54 residents purchased well testing kits and 47 returned their samples on September 23rd.

The following chart is a summary of data collected from these 47 wells on Primary Contaminants of Concern:

Contaminant	# wells tested in 2024	Limit or MCL*	Range of results (ND=NonDetect)	# wells exceeding MCL
Coliform bacteria	43	Absent	Absent-Present	8
E.coli	43	Absent	Absent-Present	1
Nitrate	43	10 mg/L	ND - 5.49 mg/L	0
Lead	11	15 ppb	ND - 27.9 ppb	1
Radon	13	800 - 4,000 pCi/L**	ND – 4,280 pCi/L	Under 800 pCi/L = 7 wells 800-4,000 pCi/L = 5 wells Over 4,000 pCi/L = 1 well
Gross Alpha	14	15 pCi/L	0.189 - 35.2 pCi/L	1
Volatile Organic Compounds (32 chemicals)	8	Varies	ND	0
Synthetic organic compounds (3 chemicals)	2	Varies	ND	0
Arsenic	30	5 ppb	ND - 6.87 ppb	4
See 5 PFAS compounds below:				
PFOS	2	4 ppt (EPA)	ND	0
PFNA	2	10 ppt (EPA)	ND	0
PFOA	2	4 ppt (EPA)	ND - 2.0 ppt	0
PFHxS	2	10 ppt (EPA)	ND	0
GenX (HFPO-DA)	2	10 ppt (EPA)	ND	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.

** Although an action level does not currently exist for private wells in New Jersey, past considerations included MCL's ranging from 800-4,000 pCi/L. The EPA standard for radon in water is 4,000 pCi/L.

There are approximately 1,885 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, 690 wells have been tested as mandated under the PWTA between 2002 and 2023. 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 TWP
County	HUNTERDON
Nitrate	0.4%, 690 wells sampled
Iron	15.5%, 690 wells sampled
Manganese	19.4%, 690 wells sampled
VOC	0.3%, 690 wells sampled
Fecal Coliform	3.9%, 690 wells sampled
pH	23.7%, 689 wells sampled
Arsenic	22.2%, 690 wells sampled
Gross Alpha	11.8%, 628 wells sampled
Mercury	Testing not required under PWTA
SOC	0.7%, 147 wells sampled
PFOA	2.6%, 76 wells sampled
PFOS	0%, 76 wells sampled
PFNA	0%, 76 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.

