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## **RESOURCES FOR CLIENTS INTERESTED IN DRINKING WATER QUALITY**

As a lab, we often get calls from individuals who want to know if their drinking water is safe but do not know what to test for. Most individuals can not test for “everything” as the cost is prohibitive. Unfortunately, we are not consultants and can not advise individual clients on what to test for. We can, however, run most analytical tests, once an individual knows what they want to test for. We also do not do any interpretation of results but we can refer individuals to published guidelines. We have compiled this list of resources to help those clients educate themselves on what is generally recommended by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and other organizations.

Please note - One test that we do recommend for all Private Wells is a Bacteriological test. (Cost for this test is \$20 per sample, special sample container required.)

### **WATER SYSTEMS COUNCIL (WSC)**

Water Systems Council (WSC) is a national, nonprofit organization solely focused on household wells and small water well systems. This organization has two useful resources, a hotline and a web page. This hotline can generally give individuals suggestions on what to test for based on their geographical location. The website also has a great deal of information.

Well Care Hotline - 888-395-1033

<http://www.watersystemscouncil.org/>

### **The EPA**

The EPA also has a website. On this site they list Drinking Water Standards. The Primary Drinking Water Standards are those contaminants that often have health risks associated with them. However, most can be eliminated based on the most common sources and those are listed on the website. They also list the Secondary Drinking Water Standards which do not have the same health risks associated with them and can be good indicators of overall water quality.

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/contaminants/index.html>

### **Other Useful Web sites:**

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/> - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ground Water and Drinking Water

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/> - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/> - Texas State Health Department

<http://groundwater.org/> - The Groundwater Foundation