

# DEQ OFFERS FREE WELL TESTS

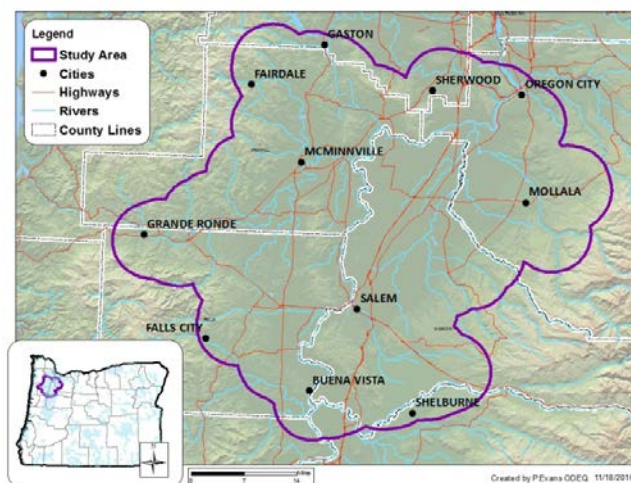


State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is offering free well testing in the Mid-Willamette Valley as part of a groundwater resource study. If you own a well in this study area and want to participate, please contact us.

## Why this study area?

The DEQ Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Program seeks to identify areas of the state that are vulnerable to groundwater contamination, update our understanding of the status and trends of groundwater quality throughout Oregon, determine emerging groundwater quality problems and inform groundwater users of potential risks from contamination. DEQ selected the Mid-Willamette Valley as a study area using data on vulnerable aquifers, information on geology and soils, data from historical Real Estate Transactions, gaps in available water quality data, and input from local stakeholders.



Groundwater can be vulnerable to contamination from land management activities that don't properly treat and dispose of contaminants as well as sub-surface pollution sources such as improperly designed or managed septic systems. Contaminated groundwater may pose a health risk to those who rely on it for drinking water. Public water suppliers are required to test their water on a regular basis. However, homeowners who rely on wells for water are not required to test their wells unless they transfer the property. Federal or state drinking water standards do not apply to private wells unless you plan to sell the property. DEQ is looking for volunteers who are interested in having their drinking well water tested, at no cost to the homeowner.

## What will DEQ test?

DEQ will collect well water *before any treatment or filtration* and then analyze the samples for chemicals that pose a potential health risk as well as several common water quality indicators shown in the table on the right. Samples will be collected by DEQ staff from an outdoor, active spigot as close to the well as possible. Sampling staff will flush the system by hooking up a hose to the spigot and running the water for several minutes before taking the sample. The whole process should take 30-45 minutes and the homeowner does not need to be present as long as they provide clear directions on where to sample. DEQ will send test results to well owners and residents at the property. Property owners could then decide what, if any, actions to take.

Tests
Nitrate/nitrite
Arsenic
Pesticides and herbicides (legacy and current use)
Hardness (ion concentrations)
Selected metals
Coliform Bacteria and <i>E. coli</i>
Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products
Volatile Organic Chemicals

## Will results be public?

All DEQ sample results are public record. However, addresses and names are not included in the database available to the public, only the latitude and longitude of the well.

## How can I participate?

To be considered for this study, please email [Groundwater.Monitoring@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Groundwater.Monitoring@deq.state.or.us) or call **503-693-5736** to provide your well address. DEQ will send you a form with questions about your well. DEQ will select participants based on location and well characteristics. A well log can provide some of this information, but is not required to participate in the study. **Participants must have spigot access to their well water before any treatment or filtration occurs.**