

Water Sample Collection

A fact sheet for drillers and pump installers

Water samples are required in a variety of situations. This fact sheet will help identify when, where and how to collect samples to comply with NR 812.

SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT WATER SAMPLE COLLECTION:

- **SAMPLE LOCATION** – NR 812.46(2)(a) specifies where to collect a water sample from the water supply system. Collect water samples from a non-threaded sampling faucet located between the pressure tank and the well.
- **INITIAL WELL CONSTRUCTION** - The well constructor must collect water samples for nitrate and coliform bacteria tests upon completion of each potable well. The pump installer is only required to submit a water sample for a coliform bacteria test. If the well constructor also does the pump installing, only one nitrate and coliform bacteria test is required following the pump installation.
- **PROPERTY TRANSFER WELL INSPECTIONS** - Bacteria, nitrate and arsenic water samples are required for a property transfer well inspection on a potable well. A non-potable well requires only a bacteria test. Water samples for a property transfer well inspection must be collected by the licensed inspector; this sampling cannot be delegated to someone else unless the only requirement of the property transfer is the sample itself with no inspection.
- **OTHER PUMP INSTALLING & WELL INSPECTIONS** - For well inspections not involved with a property transfer, the water sample test requirements depend on if the well cap is removed for reasons other than a visual inspection or chlorination. When the cap is removed for reasons other than these, such as measuring the well casing depth, then bacteria, nitrate and arsenic tests are required. If work is done that involves entry to the well (as defined in NR 812.46(1)(c)), bacteria, nitrate and arsenic tests are required. If the well cap is removed only for chlorinating the well, for a visual inspection or for measuring a water level, no water sample tests are required.
- **SAMPLING FORMS** – The laboratory will only report sample analysis results to the DNR when the proper form is used. The initial well constructor sample is submitted with Form 3300-077, First Water Quality Test. Pump installing samples are submitted with Form 3300-265, Pump Work – Water Test Request. Property transfer well inspection water samples are not submitted with a DNR form and results are not reported to DNR. Property transfer well inspection samples are submitted with the laboratory's form and are reported to the person requesting the inspection.
- **LABORATORY SELECTION** – NR 812 requires water samples for well or pump work to be analyzed by a laboratory certified for testing drinking water. Go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/DrinkingWater/laboratories.html> for lists of drinking water-accredited laboratories.



DOES YOUR SAMPLING PRACTICE COMPLY WITH ch. NR 812, Wis. Adm. Code?
Please check the flowchart on the back of this page.



This fact sheet and flow chart do not replace or supersede specific code language for water sampling and analysis, which is found in s. NR 812.46, Wis. Adm. Code

This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

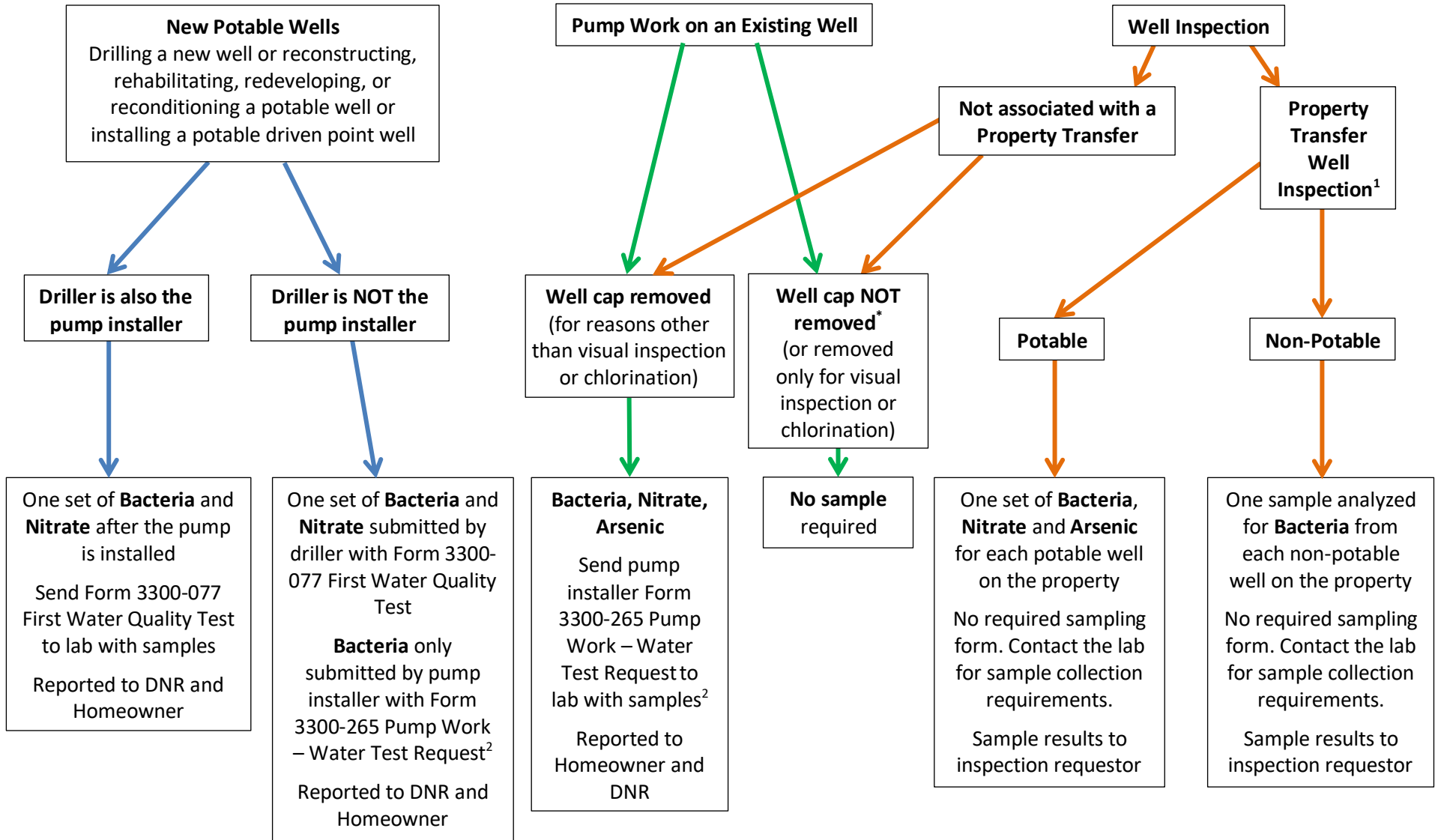
This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape, etc.) upon request.

Please call 608-266-1054 for more information.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707-7921
(608) 266-1054



Private Well Sampling Requirements



*Opening a well cap or well seal to **visually inspect** or **chlorinate**, is not considered pump installing unless the well cap or seal is **replaced** with a different cap or seal, or unless the well has a **hand pump** installed on it. ss. NR 146.02(5) and 812.07(82). Following the measurement of a water level, collecting a water sample for coliform bacteria analysis is recommended, but not required.

¹Samples can only be collected by the licensed inspector.

²Repeat nitrate and arsenic sampling is not required with pump installation work is performed by the same pump installer within 6 months of a previous sample.