

# Water Sample Requirements

A fact sheet for drillers and pump installers

## SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT WATER SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS:

- **SAMPLE LOCATION** – NR 812 does not specify where to collect a water sample from the water supply system. DNR recommends collecting 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.
- **OTHER PUMP INSTALLING AND 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 chlorination or a visual inspection, bacteria, nitrate and arsenic 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 is required. If work is done that involves entry to the well (as defined in NR 146.02(4t) and (5)), bacteria, nitrate and arsenic 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. This form is attached to the front of the well construction report Form 3300-077A. 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 are not submitted to DNR. They are submitted with each laboratory's own form and reported only to the person requesting the water sample test.
- **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 <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wells/documents/PrivateLabs.pdf> for a list of state certified laboratories.



**IS YOUR SAMPLING PRACTICE COMPLIANT WITH ch. NR 812?**  
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 ss. NR 812.10, NR812.22, NR812.27, NR812.41, NR812.44 and NR146.02(5), 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.*

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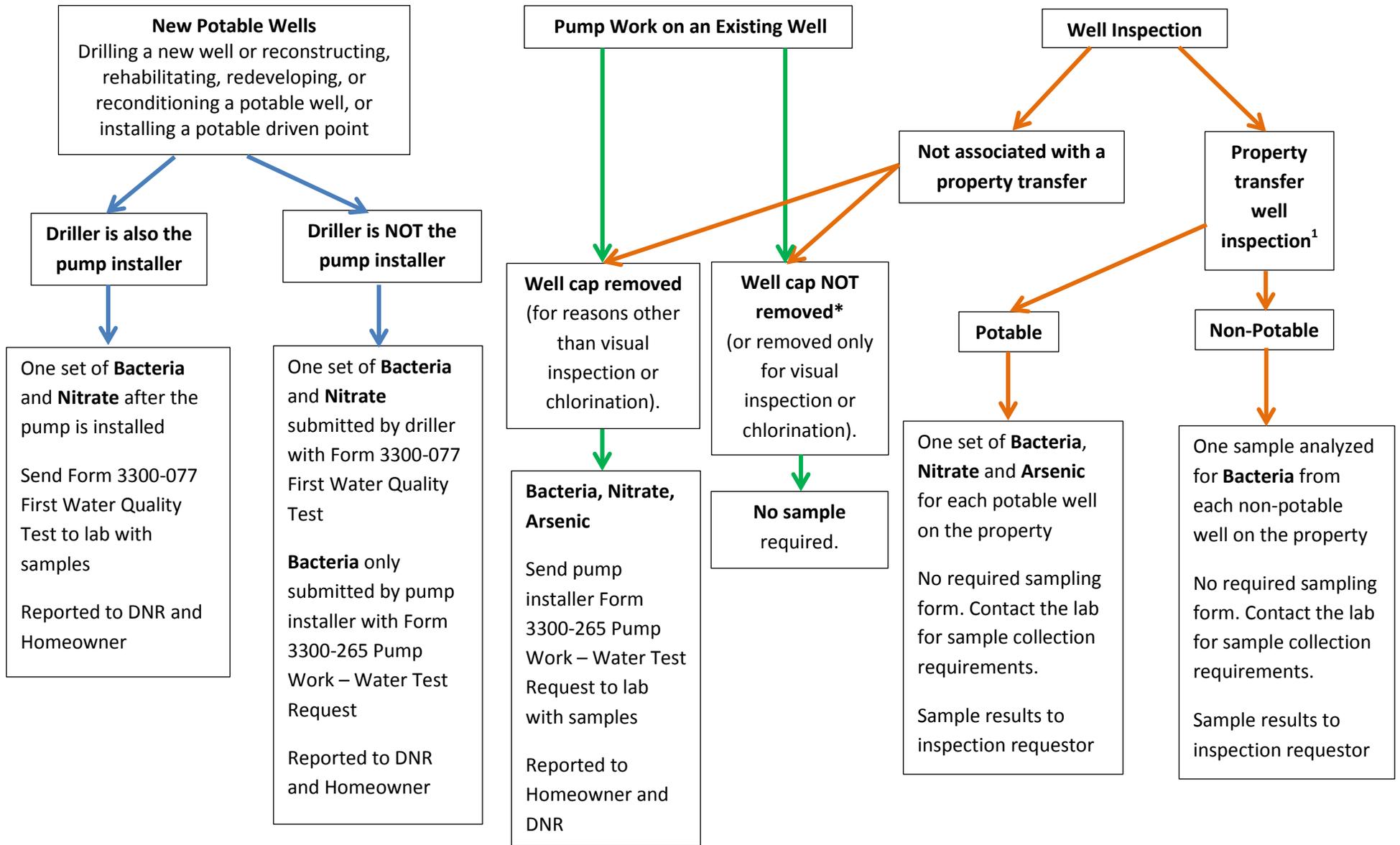
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# Private Well Sampling Requirements



\*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.

<sup>1</sup>Samples can only be collected by the inspector



## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NOTICE OF FINAL GUIDANCE & CERTIFICATION

*Pursuant to ch. 227, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has finalized and hereby certifies the following guidance document.*

### DOCUMENT ID

DG-19-0014

### DOCUMENT TITLE

PUB DG-088 - Water Sample Requirements - a fact sheet for drillers and pump installers

### PROGRAM/BUREAU

Drinking Water and Groundwater Program

### STATUTORY AUTHORITY OR LEGAL CITATION

NR 812 and NR 146, Wis. Adm. Code

### DATE SENT TO LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

12/02/2019

### DATE FINALIZED

01/23/2020

### DNR CERTIFICATION

*I have reviewed this guidance document or proposed guidance document and I certify that it complies with sections 227.10 and 227.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is not explicitly required or explicitly permitted by a statute or a rule that has been lawfully promulgated. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than a standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the Wisconsin Statutes.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stanley', written in a cursive style.

1/24/2020

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