

MY WATER HAD A SUDDEN CHANGE IN TASTE, ODOR OR COLOR

POSSIBLE PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE REQUIRED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
Coliform Bacteria A sudden change in water quality may be a sign of a serious contamination problem.	Yes, the presence of coliform bacteria indicates there is a breach in your water system. The presence of fecal coliform or E-coli bacteria indicates that fecal material is entering through the breach and it is likely that disease-causing bacteria are present.	Is your septic system functioning properly? Did the change happen after significant snowmelt or after heavy rainfall? Does your well have shallow casing pipe or thin-walled pipe? Is your well in a pit? Is limestone bedrock close to the ground surface? What kinds of land use activities are happening nearby?	Send a sample to a laboratory certified to test for coliform bacteria .	Shock Chlorination followed by additional samples.	No	No	See Bacteriological Contamination of Drinking Water Wells brochure
				Inspection and upgrade of your well and pressure system by a well driller or pump installer. Include measurement of well casing depth.	No license is required for an inspection <i>unless</i> it is performed at time of property transfer; although Well Drillers and Pump Installers are the most qualified. Only well drillers may modify a well. Only pump installers may modify a pump installation.	No	DNR website on Property Transfer Well Inspections
				Check for an Unused Well that should be filled and sealed.	No license is required for the search, unless it is performed at time of property transfer; although Well Drillers and Pump Installers are the most qualified. Only licensed well drillers or pump installers may fill and seal an unused well.	Are not available for a search for unused wells. There are funds for filling and sealing unused wells .	DNR website on Filling and Sealing Unused Wells

MY WATER HAD A SUDDEN CHANGE IN TASTE, ODOR OR COLOR, CONTINUED

POSSIBLE PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE REQUIRED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
<p>Declining Water Table</p> <p>Your well could be drawing water from a deeper level in the aquifer with different chemistry than the upper aquifer</p>	<p>Possibly, if you are in an area where dropping water levels are causing arsenic to be released from the aquifer into the water. Arsenic is a known carcinogen even at fairly low levels and also causes other health problems such as diabetes. Some metals can be a problem if levels are over the drinking water standards. See the Department of Health Services Fact Sheet on Arsenic. See Arsenic in Drinking Water.</p>	<p>Is there a lot of development going on nearby? Has your area been experiencing drought conditions?</p>	<p>After having your water tested by a laboratory certified to test for coliform bacteria, check whether arsenic is present by sending a sample to a laboratory certified by DNR to test for arsenic or metals.</p>	<p>Deepen Your Well (if arsenic and other heavy metals are not present)</p>	<p>Yes, licensed Well Drillers</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>DNR Arsenic web page</p> <p>UWSP Well Water Quality Viewer</p> <p>USEPA</p>
				<p>Install a Dept. of Safety and Professional Services approved water treatment device</p>	<p>Yes, treatment devices must be installed by licensed plumbers; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See plumbing license laws.</p>	<p>Yes, for arsenic, if drinking water standards are exceeded: eligibility criteria are met; and approved first. See well replacement program. See MY WATER TASTES METALLIC.</p>	
				<p>Construct a new well.</p>	<p>Yes, licensed Well Drillers.</p>	<p>Yes, for arsenic, if drinking water standards are exceeded: eligibility criteria are met; and approved first. See well replacement program. See MY WATER TASTES METALLIC.</p>	