

For Immediate Release

Is Your Well Water Safe to Drink? Test It!

When was the last time you had your drinking water tested? Health officials recommend that private well users test their drinking water every one to two years. Residents served by public water supplies in cities and villages are assured their water is safe because municipalities are required to test regularly, but private wells owners are responsible for their own testing.

The towns of Merrimac and Sumpter are partnering with Sauk County UW-Extension and the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department to offer a Drinking Water Testing Program. Town of Merrimac and Sumpter residents are encouraged to participate in this voluntary educational program and can pick up water sampling bottles at their town hall on Friday, July 5th, or Saturday, July 6th. The following tests are available:

Available Drinking Water Tests	Costs
<u>Homeowner Package:</u> Includes tests for nitrate, coliform bacteria, pH, alkalinity, hardness, conductivity, corrosivity, and chloride.	\$49.00
<u>DACT Screen:</u> Includes tests for type herbicides like atrazine.	\$27.00
<u>Metals Package:</u> Includes tests for arsenic, copper, lead, iron, manganese, zinc, potassium, sodium, sulfate, calcium, and magnesium.	\$42.00

After returning their samples to their town halls on Monday, July 8th, residents will receive their test results at an educational program at the River Arts Center located at 105 9th Street in Prairie du Sac on Thursday, August 22nd, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information about testing your drinking water, please contact Penny Pohle at the Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning office at 355-4839 or Jenny Erickson at the Sauk County UW-Extension office at 355-3250.

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