

Domestic Well Testing Recommendations for Crook County Well Owners

Oregon Health Authority developed this document to assist Crook County well owners with finding appropriate testing for concerns related to human health (e.g., skin problems), issues with plumbing and appliances, and odors, taste, and appearance of well water.

Follow these steps, and see below for more information:

1. Decide what to test for.
2. Choose a lab.
3. Contact the lab and follow their testing instructions.

Questions? If you have questions about domestic well testing or have well water concerns that are not addressed, please contact EHAP.info@odhsoha.oregon.gov. OHA cannot pay for private well testing. However, OHA can assist well owners in deciding what to test for based on problems they are experiencing and can share helpful information on well maintenance, testing, and treatment.

1. Decide What to Test For

Some natural minerals, like iron, magnesium, or calcium can make well water unpleasant looking or foul tasting, but usually are not harmful. Water can sometimes be contaminated with things like bacteria, viruses, or chemicals that can harm our health. Contaminated water can often look, smell, and taste fine, so there is no substitute for periodic testing of well water. Proper well construction, disinfection, system maintenance, and regular water testing all help to assure safe drinking water.

Oregon Health Authority recommends that all domestic well owners test their wells regularly for arsenic, nitrates/nitrites, total coliform, and E. coli. Well owners may wish to test for additional chemicals (i.e., contaminants or “analytes”), depending on the problems they are experiencing.

OHA recommends different kinds of testing for different concerns or problems with domestic well water in Crook County:

- A. **Standard well owner’s panel + manganese (Mn).** Recommended for all domestic well owners in the Crook County area that are experiencing problems with their wells
- B. **Skin Issues: Standard well owner’s panel + metals & hardness.** Recommended for households that have concerns about skin issues after using well water to bath, wash laundry, etc.
- C. **Water Aesthetics/Appeal/Plumbing Issues: Standard well owner’s panel + metals, pH, turbidity, hardness, etc.:** Recommended for households that have problems with the taste, odor, or appearance (staining, sedimentation/build-up) of their water.
- D. **Comprehensive: Standard well owner’s panel + metals, pH, turbidity, hardness, etc.:** Recommended for households that have concerns about skin issues after using well water to bath, wash laundry, etc. and problems with the taste, odor, or appearance (staining, sedimentation/build-up) of their water.

Recommended Testing By Well Water Problem:

Panel A. Standard well owner's panel + manganese (Mn).	Panel B. Skin Issues:	Panel C. Water Appeal/Plumbing Issues:	Panel D. Comprehensive: Standard Well Owner's panel: This is the full list of potential analytes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arsenic • Nitrate as nitrogen • Total coliform • E. Coli • Manganese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arsenic • Nitrate as nitrogen • Total coliform • E. Coli • Manganese • Cobalt • Nickel • Silver • Zinc • Hardness (Calcium or CaCO₃) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arsenic • Nitrate as nitrogen • Total coliform • E. Coli • Aluminum • Chloride • Copper • Iron • Manganese • pH • Silver • Sulfate • Turbidity • Zinc • Hardness (calcium or CaCO₃) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arsenic • Nitrate as nitrogen • Total coliform • E. Coli • Aluminum • Chloride • Cobalt • Copper • Iron • Manganese • Nickel • pH • Silver • Sulfate • Turbidity • Zinc • Hardness (calcium or CaCO₃)

2. Choose a lab.

Testing availability and costs vary across testing companies. The following table provides information for accredited labs in Oregon that offer testing for the chemicals we recommend testing for. Many labs that are not accredited to test for certain chemicals will contract other labs to do that testing for them. This means there may be additional options to obtain the testing that is right for you. To view a full list of accredited labs across the nation, you can visit the [Oregon Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program](#). Users can search for testing companies by state, contaminant, drinking water, and labs that accept samples from the public. Note that some labs will only accept samples from public water systems and not from individual community members or homeowners.

Prices vary depending on the lab and range from around \$125 for the most basic panel (Panel A) to about ~\$450 for the most comprehensive panel (Panel D).

The table below shows labs in Oregon that are accredited to test for chemicals in this list using a method approved by the US EPA for potable drinking water samples. Many more labs are accredited to test for the standard well owner's panel (arsenic, nitrite/nitrate, total coliform, and E. coli), not including manganese.

Lab/ Testing Company	Lab Testing Capacity			
	Panel A - Standard + Manganese	Panel B - Skin issues	Panel C - Appearance/appeal	Panel D- Comprehensive
Alexin Analytical Laboratories 13035 SW Pacific Hwy Tigard, OR 97223 503-639-9331 mail@alexinlabs.com https://alexinlabs.com/services	X			
Columbia Laboratories 12423 NE Whitaker Way Portland, OR 97230 503-254-1794 Danielle.Weir@tentamus.com	X	X	X	X
Grants Pass Water Laboratory, Inc./The Water Lab 964 SE M Street Grants Pass, OR 97526 541-476-0733 doree@gpwaterlab.com https://www.gpwaterlab.com/	X		X	
Neilson Research Corporation 245 South Grape St Medford, OR 97501 541-770-5678 tschmedemann@nrclabs.com	X	X	X	X
Umpqua Research Company 626 NE Division St Myrtle Creek, OR 97457 541-863-5201 Or 738 SE Glenwood Dr Bend, OR 97702 541-312-9454 lleming@urcmail.net http://umpquaresearch.com/	X		X	
Water Lab Corp 2603 12th St. SE Salem, OR 97302 503-363-0473 beth@waterlabcorp.com randi@waterlabcorp.com https://www.waterlabcorp.com/home	X		X	
Box R Water Analysis Laboratory LLC 567 NW 2 nd St Prineville, OR 97754 541-447-4911 boxrwaterlab@qwestoffice.net Edge Analytical, Inc. 20332 Empire Ave f4 Bend, OR 97703 Bend	These labs are local to central Oregon and have limited in-house testing capability. They can also contract other labs to test for additional analytes.			

541-639-8425	
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lab@edgeanalytical.com	
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3. Contact the lab and follow their instructions.

The lab you choose will have specific pricing and requirements for properly taking samples. This includes, but is not limited to:

- How to transport samples to the lab while maintaining a certain temperature range
- What kind of collection bottles to use and costs associated (e.g., bottles provided by the lab)
- The maximum amount of time allowed between collection and analysis. This can influence shipping costs, depending on how far samples need to be shipped to reach the lab.

You will need to contact the testing company to learn about costs and shipping requirements. The lab may recommend testing for additional chemicals as well.

What's next?

OHA toxicologists can help to interpret testing results. If water treatment is recommended, many testing companies can suggest local treatment options and experts.

Crook County Environmental Health Scientist, Max Hamblin, can support Crook County well owners in finding and selecting the right treatment option. Contact info: max.hamblin@co.crook.or.us or 541-447-8155.