

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**TEST WELL PROCEDURES**

1. To arrange for sample collection and analysis, telephone the Bureau of Drinking Water at 852-5810. Other questions concerning the status of your application should be directed to the Office of Wastewater Management at 852-5700.
2. As of January 1, 2003, the testing fee is \$675.00 per well. Make checks payable to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and mail to: Bureau of Drinking Water, 360 Yaphank Avenue, Suite 1C, Yaphank, NY 11980.
3. Submit with your check: one copy of your notice of incomplete application indicating the number of test wells required, a copy of the proposed subdivision map or residential survey, well driller's certificate(s), Health Department Reference Number and Suffolk County Tax Map Number.
4. The fee includes up to one (1) resample on the same well within 90 days or on a deepened well due to poor water quality. Consult the department's standards before changing the well depth.
5. Sample results will be forwarded directly to both the applicant and the Office of Wastewater Management.
6. Test wells **must** be located on the subject parcel. Results from wells on nearby or adjacent parcels are not acceptable as proof of water quality.
7. A private well serving an existing dwelling on the parcel can be utilized as a test well if the well can be documented to meet department standards, the well is otherwise approved for such use by the department and the private well testing fee is paid.

Test wells are required by the department for realty subdivisions and developments (two wells minimum, plus one well per ten acres or ten subdivision lots). At the department's discretion, realty developments (2-4 lots) may be allowed to install only one test well. A test well may be required for individual building sites where the department determines that water quality or quantity may be questionable, prior to the issuance of approval to construct. The department must approve, and may specify, the location and depth of a test well or wells. Wells should be constructed in accordance with the department's standards if their eventual use for potable water supply is anticipated.

The well driller shall provide the department with a signed certification containing well log data, including the depth of well, groundwater elevation and other pertinent data required.

After the test well(s) has been installed, the applicant must contact the Bureau of Drinking Water to arrange a sampling date and time. A department representative will be present during the test, which will run for one hour at a minimum pumping rate of 10 gpm unless otherwise specified by the department. The representative will collect samples from the pumping well, and the department will perform all required chemical analyses.

The chemical analyses will be deemed valid for one year only. The microbiological analysis must be performed prior to occupancy and is the responsibility of the applicant.

Unsatisfactory water quality test results for both subdivision and individual lot test wells will be deemed as having demonstrated that the aquifer segment is contaminated and unsuitable as a drinking water source. Pulling the well back or marginally deepening it within the same aquifer segment is not permitted. It is incumbent upon the applicant, or his consultant, to provide documentation satisfactory to the department that an acceptable deeper aquifer exists.

If the water quality does not meet the department's criteria, the use of private wells will not be approved. The applicant may propose: (1) extending public water to the site or, (2) constructing an acceptable on-site community water system. An alternate option is to install a test well on each lot of the subdivision or development to determine if acceptable water is available, using NYS Sanitary Code, Part 5, maximum contaminant levels. Use of water treatment for subdivision approval is prohibited. Water treatment for individual lots and realty developments (2-4 lots) will be considered by the department on a case-by-case basis.

A covenant is required for all developments or subdivisions approved with private wells, and individual lots where the wells require treatment. Please refer to the department's Standards and Procedures for Private Water Systems for further information.