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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Ensure Ground Water Safety: Test Your Well**

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department would like to remind you that it is time to schedule your annual well water test!

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, you should also schedule an annual well water test. Annual testing on well water can protect your health by ensuring water quality and can also prolong the life of your well and related equipment.

Schedule your annual water test

Wells can provide high-quality drinking water with the proper maintenance and prevention, including water testing. "Ground water is essential to the health and well being of many people," says Sharon Smith, Laboratory Scientist for the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. It is recommended that well owners have annual well water testing and practice the following prevention techniques:

- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and livestock operations.
- Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems, and chemical storage areas.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.
- Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.

#### Water Testing Services

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department provides kits for water testing. Please call the lab at 417-864-1673 for a kit and directions on properly collecting a water sample. Only samples collected in a testing kit from the lab can be analyzed. Water samples may be dropped off to the lab at the health department located at 227 E. Chestnut Expressway Monday – Wednesday between 8am – 5pm and Thursday from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm. Water testing fees are \$5.00 for iron, sulfate, chlorine, hardness, and nitrate/nitrogen. Standard bacteria tests are \$10.00. For more information on water testing, please visit [www.springfieldmo.gov/health/waterlab.html](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/health/waterlab.html), or call 417-864-1673.

Protect your valuable resource and have your water tested!

For more information contact: Katie Towns-Jeter MPH, Public Information Administrator, 417-874-1205



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