

## 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   |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Coliform Bacteria</b></p> <p>A sudden change in water quality may be a sign of a serious contamination problem.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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?</p> | <p>Send a sample to <a href="#">a lab certified to test for coliform bacteria.</a></p> | <p><b>Shock Chlorination</b> followed by additional samples.</p>   | <p>No</p>   | <p>No</p>   | <p>See Bacteriological Contamination of Drinking Water Wells brochure</p> |
|   |  |  |  | <p><b>Inspection and upgrade</b> of your well and pressure system by a well driller or pump installer. Include measurement of well casing depth.</p> | <p>No license is required for an inspection <i>unless</i> it is performed at time of property transfer; although <a href="#">Well Drillers</a> and <a href="#">Pump Installers</a> are the most qualified. Only well drillers may modify a well. Only pump installers may modify a pump installation.</p> | <p>No</p>   | <p>DNR website on <a href="#">Property Transfer Well Inspections</a></p>  |
|   |  |  |  | <p><b>Check for an Unused Well</b> that should be filled and sealed.</p>   | <p>No license is required for the search, unless it is performed at time of property transfer; although <a href="#">Well Drillers</a> and <a href="#">Pump Installers</a> are the most qualified. Only licensed well drillers or pump installers may fill and seal an unused well.</p>                    | <p>Are not available for a search for unused wells. There are <a href="#">funds for filling and sealing unused wells.</a></p> | <p>DNR website on <a href="#">Filling and Sealing Unused Wells</a></p>    |

## 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  |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Declining Water Table</b><br><br>Your well could be drawing water from a deeper level in the aquifer with different chemistry than the upper aquifer | 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 <a href="#">drinking water standards</a> . See the Department of Health Services <a href="#">Fact Sheet on Arsenic</a> . See <a href="#">Arsenic in Drinking Water</a> . | Is there a lot of development going on nearby?<br><br>Has your area been experiencing drought conditions? | After having your water tested by <a href="#">a lab certified to test for coliform bacteria</a> , check whether arsenic is present by sending a sample to a <a href="#">laboratory certified by DNR to test for arsenic or metals</a> . | <b>Deepen Your Well</b><br>(if arsenic and other heavy metals are not present)  | Yes, licensed <a href="#">Well Drillers</a>   | No  | DNR <a href="#">Arsenic web page</a><br><br><a href="#">UWSP Well Water Quality Viewer</a> |
|   |  |   |   | <b>Install a DSPS</b><br><a href="#">approved water treatment device</a> - from the search dropdown, select products; then choose plumbing products and then choose water treatment device. | Yes, treatment devices must be installed by <a href="#">licensed plumbers</a> ; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See <a href="#">plumbing license laws</a> . | Yes, for arsenic, if <a href="#">drinking water standards</a> are exceeded: eligibility criteria are met; and approved first. See <a href="#">well replacement program</a> . See <a href="#">MY WATER TASTES METALLIC</a> . |  |
|   |  |   |   | <b>Construct a new well.</b>  | Yes, licensed <a href="#">Well Drillers</a> .   | Yes, for arsenic, if <a href="#">drinking water standards</a> are exceeded: eligibility criteria are met; and approved first. See <a href="#">well replacement program</a> . See <a href="#">MY WATER TASTES METALLIC</a> . |  |