

# Common Myths

## Are myths keeping you from getting your water tested?

**Myth:** I haven't seen, smelled or tasted anything bad in my well water, so it must be safe to drink.

**Fact:** Most harmful contaminants have no taste or smell. Bacteria and other germs can cause illness with symptoms including diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting.

**Myth:** No one has gotten sick from my well water, so it must be safe.

**Fact:** Some contaminant can take many years to make you sick. It is important that you test your well at least once a year.

**Myth:** My well passed inspection and a water test when it was first built, so it must be safe.

**Fact:** Well water quality can change over time.

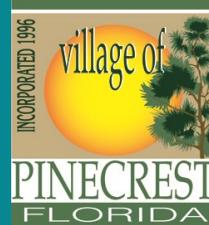
**Myth:** Testing is too expensive.

**Fact:** Testing for bacteria and nitrate is fairly affordable. Most prices range from only \$20 to \$70 total if you collect the samples yourself and bring them to a laboratory or about \$50 to \$100 if you want a professional to collect the samples for you.

## For more information

[www.pinecrest-fl.gov/well](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/well).

You are always home in Pinecrest!



# Village of Pinecrest

## Village Council

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# Information about Your Private Well



## What You Should Know Learn and Get Informed



This brochure is designed to provide the homeowner with steps to protect their private water source



## Your Drinking Water

The earth's drinking water is not pure. The makeup of water is such that contaminants, both natural and manmade can easily dissolve upon direct contact. Potential drinking water contaminants include both microbiological and chemical substances. These agents can be found in nature or be the result of some past or present human activity. Microbiological substances of concern include bacteria, viruses and protozoa. Chemical contaminants primarily include metals, minerals and both organic and inorganic substances.

### Common Contaminants Found in Water

Bacteria – namely coliforms – appear to be the primary contaminant found in private wells. Nitrates represent the second most common type of contaminant found in private wells. The presence of this naturally occurring chemical is an indication that animal and/or human waste or agricultural products such as fertilizers are entering the well. Nitrates are of special concern to young children and women of childbearing age. Two other contaminants private well owners should be concerned with are lead and radon. Both substances are naturally occurring.



## Suspect a Problem



If you suspect a problem or wish to obtain additional information regarding this issue, please visit the Florida Department of Health's private well owner information website at [www.myfloridaeh.com/water](http://www.myfloridaeh.com/water) or call (305) 324-2400.

In addition, you may contact the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) at (305) 372-6524 to obtain the following information:

- List of contaminants whose levels of occurrence are regulated in public water supplies by the Federal Government and the State.
- State or local standards for the drilling and construction of wells and information concerning whether testing is required during property transfers.
- List of land-use activities in the vicinity of the well and the types of contamination problems that have been known to occur in other local wells.

## Testing Your Water

- Test well water for bacteria at least once a year. If any changes are noticed in the water's taste, odor or color, well owners should conduct bacteriological tests on a quarterly basis. It is also recommended that well water be tested for bacteria after periods of significant rainfall or after flooding has occurred.
- Test well water for nitrates once a year. This is particularly important if there are young children or women of childbearing years in the household who consume the water. Agricultural activities such as fertilizer or other chemicals, as well as, animal or human waste can contaminate the well.
- Test primary kitchen tap at least once for the presence of lead or radon.
- Test for other contaminants of concern based upon information obtained from land-use and well assessment activities.
- Assess the sanitary features of the well such as depth of water, and proximity to septic field.
- Assess surrounding land-use activities – industrial, agricultural, governmental, and residential. Identify potential threats to private wells from these activities such as gasoline stations nearby whose underground storage tanks could be leaking or nearby hazardous waste disposal and storage sites that might seep contaminants.