



Greene County Public Health

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS

How can I get a water sample for my well or private water system?

The Health District collects water samples on private water systems, including wells. There is a fee charged for the sample and the fee **MUST** be paid before we can schedule the test. We collect water samples on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. Please submit the water sample request form to the Health District.

What can I do for water that smells like rotten eggs?

This odor is a nuisance or aesthetic problem and is not harmful to health. The odor comes from hydrogen sulfide gas dissolved in the water. This is a natural occurrence in groundwater and is quite common in Greene County. The problem may be temporarily relieved by chlorinating or disinfecting the well. Please refer to the Disinfecting a Well information sheet. Additionally, many homeowners have found that removing the anode rod from their hot water heater will alleviate the problem. Please see the Hydrogen Sulfide in Drinking Water fact sheet.

What water tests are available from the Health District?

The most common water test is a bacterial test to detect for total coliforms and e. coli. However, many other tests are available including lead, nitrates/nitrites, arsenic, radon, VOCs, and many more. Contact the Health District for details and current fee schedules.

I need a new well. How do I start?

You should contact the Health District to obtain a list of registered private water contractors in our area. These contractors will assist with permitting, locating, developing, and operating your new private water system. Further information about constructing private water systems is located on the private water page of our website.

Can you recommend a good well driller/private water contractor?

Every year the Health District maintains a list of registered private water contractors who meet the requirements of the Ohio Water Rules. Each contractor is bonded and insured. Greene County Public Health maintains a regularly-updated list of contractors who drill wells, set pumps, install cisterns/hailed water tanks. See our website or contact the District directly to obtain a copy.

If I am the homeowner, can I work on my own private water system?

Yes, with certain limitations. Contact the Health District at 937-374-5607 or ehpermits@gcph.info for more information.

I'm buying or selling a property with an existing private water system and need it to be inspected. Does the Health District offer this service?

Yes. The Health District will inspect existing private water systems when requested. There is a fee charged for the inspection and evaluation. Please submit the Water Certification Evaluation form located on the private water systems page. Contact the Health District for current fees and more information.

My private water system is malfunctioning. What should I do?

Contact a registered private water systems contractor for assistance. For a list of currently registered contractors, contact the Health District at 937-374-5607 or ehpermits@gcph.info .

I think my well casing has collapsed or is leaking. Does the Health District have access to an inspection camera?

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has a program for down-hole inspection of wells. A sanitarian from ODH would be dispatched to operate the camera and provide consultation on the well's condition. Please complete the Down-hole Camera Request form found on our website and submit to Greene County Public Health for processing. Alternatively, many private water contractors have their own inspection cameras. They are likely to respond more quickly, although for a fee.

Does the Health District have a record of my existing private water system?

Probably. The Health District offices contain records of most private water systems dating back to around the 1950's. Records may be filed under the original owner's last name since some records do not have a house number. Having as much info as possible about an older property increases the chances of finding the relevant records. The Health District recently digitized the entire private water system records archive and may be able to provide a .pdf of your record by email. Contact us at 937-374-5607 or ehpermits@gcph.info to make a request. NOTE: Well drillers are required to submit a Well Log to Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), in addition to filling paperwork with the Health District. You can search these records at the ODNR website here: <https://waterwells.ohiodnr.gov/search>