

## HEALTH DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

### Panhandle Health District

208-415-5200

[www.phd1.idaho.gov](http://www.phd1.idaho.gov)

(serving Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone counties)

### Public Health - North Central District

208-799-3100

[www.idahopublichealth.com](http://www.idahopublichealth.com)

(serving Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties)

### Southwest District Health

208-455-5400

[www.swdh.org](http://www.swdh.org)

(serving Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette and Washington counties)

### Central District Health Department

208-375-5211

[www.cdhd.idaho.gov](http://www.cdhd.idaho.gov)

(serving Ada, Boise, Elmore and Valley counties)

### South Central Public Health District

208-737-5900

[www.phd5.idaho.gov](http://www.phd5.idaho.gov)

(serving Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties)

### Southeastern Idaho Public Health

208-233-9080

[www.siphidaho.org](http://www.siphidaho.org)

(serving Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Butte, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties)

### Eastern Idaho Public Health District

208-522-0310

[www.eiph.idaho.gov](http://www.eiph.idaho.gov)

(serving Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton counties)

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

### Licensed Well Drillers

[research.idwr.idaho.gov/apps/wellconstruction/](http://research.idwr.idaho.gov/apps/wellconstruction/)

[Licwelldrillers/](http://Licwelldrillers/)

### Ground Water Protection Section

Boise: 208-287-4800

[www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

**Northern Region, Coeur d'Alene:** 208-762-2800

**Eastern Region, Idaho Falls:** 208-525-7161

**Southern Region, Twin Falls:** 208-736-3033

**Western Region, Boise:** 208-334-2190

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Water Program

Boise Office 208-332-8597

[www.agri.state.id.us](http://www.agri.state.id.us)

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

### Bureau of Community and Environmental Health

1-800-445-8647

[environmentalhealth.dhw.idaho.gov](http://environmentalhealth.dhw.idaho.gov)

[bceh@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:bceh@dhw.idaho.gov)

### Idaho Bureau of Laboratories

208-334-2235

[www.statelab.idaho.gov](http://www.statelab.idaho.gov)

[statelab@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:statelab@dhw.idaho.gov)

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

208-373-0502

[www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov)

## NSF INTERNATIONAL

Consumer Hotline 1-800-673-8010

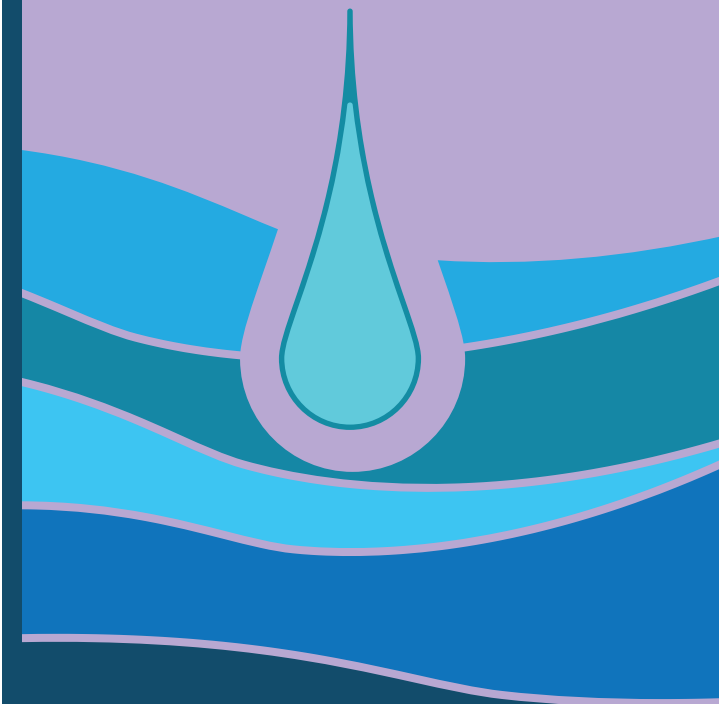
[www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)

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# PESTICIDES IN YOUR WELL WATER

Tips to Protect Your Well Water



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Private wells can provide a clean, safe source of water if they are properly located, built, and maintained. As a private well owner, it is your responsibility to make sure that your water is safe to use by testing for contaminants. This brochure provides information on pesticides and helps you understand the possible health effects of drinking water that contains pesticides.

### WHAT ARE PESTICIDES?

Pesticides are chemicals used to control pests or prevent pests from causing damage to things such as crops and homes. There are different types of pesticides including insecticides (for insects), herbicides (for weeds), and fungicides (for fungus). Pesticides can get into the groundwater and potentially into your well water when they are applied for agricultural, urban, and noncrop purposes, or if they are spilled or disposed of improperly.

### WHAT CAN I DO IF PESTICIDES ARE IN MY WELL?

If your test results show that pesticides are in your drinking water you may be able to use a home treatment device to remove the pesticides (depending on the amount and type of pesticide). However, you may need to switch to another source of water such as city water or bottled water, or drill a new well, if the pesticides cannot be removed by a home treatment device. Your local public health district or NSF International can provide you with information on the best option for removing pesticides from your well water (numbers on back of brochure).

### WHAT ARE THE HEALTH CONCERNS?

The health concerns related to drinking water containing pesticides depends on the pesticide, the amount of pesticide, how long the person has been drinking the water, and the person's overall health and age. If you have concerns about your health, please contact your doctor.

### HOW DO I KNOW IF MY WELL HAS PESTICIDES?

Just because water is clear and smells okay does not mean the water is safe. Testing the water is the only way to know if there is a pesticide problem. Wells located on or near agricultural areas or near pesticide-related industries may be at greater risk for having pesticides in their source water. For information on how to test your well, contact your local public health district or the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (numbers on back of brochure). You can also contact the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to find out which pesticides are commonly used in your area and the best time to test for these pesticides. If you do find pesticides in your well water, ISDA can help you understand whether they are above safe levels.

### WHAT CAN I DO TO MAINTAIN MY WATER SYSTEM?

If you install a home treatment device, make sure it is certified by NSF International and follow the manufacturer's suggested maintenance schedule to be sure your water is safe. Also, your well should be maintained to keep it in good working order. To help keep track of well maintenance, it is recommended that you create and maintain a "system maintenance log." The log should include the location of the well, construction and contractor details, as well as results of any water tests. A copy of a log is available online at [environmentalhealth.dhw.idaho.gov](http://environmentalhealth.dhw.idaho.gov).

*For questions about your well water, contact your local public health district.*

### SUGGESTED TESTING SCHEDULE

| Contaminants                   | How often should I test? |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bacteria<br>Nitrate            | Once a year              |
| Arsenic<br>Uranium<br>Fluoride | Once every 3 to 5 years  |