



2020 Well Water Testing Information

In the region, 42% of residents depend on groundwater; a large proportion of these residents have their own private well that they manage for their drinking water.

Improperly constructed or poorly maintained wells can act as a direct pathway for surface contaminants such as manure, petroleum products, and fertilizers to enter the groundwater. In order to assist residents in maintaining and improving groundwater quality in rural areas, the RDN is offering rebates for well water tests (visit www.RDNrebates.ca for details).

Island Health recommends bacteria tests completed one to three times a year. Ideally during high rains when surface water could more readily contaminate groundwater, whenever major work is completed on main plumbing lines, the well pump or wellhead, or whenever someone with decreased immune functions (i.e. elderly, young children, autoimmune disorder, etc.) will be consuming your well water. Full chemical analysis is recommended every 3 to 5 years.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a residential landowner with a private domestic well within the RDN, including electoral areas (A, B, C, E, F, G, H) and member municipalities (Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach).
- Well water tests must be a full spectrum analysis (chemical and bacteriological) completed by a provincially approved lab (i.e. on Vancouver Island: B.V. Labs (formerly Maxxam Analytics) or M.B. Laboratories). For the full Directory of Qualified Laboratories in BC visit www.nrs.gov.bc.ca/qualified-labs.
- Each private domestic well is eligible for one (1) rebate over the lifetime of the program. Water purveyors and commercial properties are NOT eligible.
- All samples must be submitted between January 1 and December 31, 2020.

REBATE AMOUNT: The RDN will rebate 50% off up to \$150 full spectrum analysis that includes at a minimum all of the following: Total Coliform and Escherichia coli (E. coli), pH, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Hardness, Nitrate, Nitrite, Sulphate, Fluoride, Chloride, and 32 element metals scan.

PRE-APPROVAL AND CLAIMS: A limited number of rebates are available; funds are available on a first-come first-served basis. Vouchers are available online at www.RDNrebates.ca. To receive the rebate, vouchers are submitted to the accredited lab with your well water sample(s).

| CATEGORY | REBATE | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| Well Water Testing | 50% off Up to \$150 | Full spectrum water quality analysis by Provincially accredited laboratory Take a water sample following proper sampling procedures. Sample bottles can be picked up from any of the labs or from the pick-up locations listed on the RDN rebates webpage. Drop off your properly collected sample with your completed voucher at either the lab directly, at a qualified courier, or at a designated drop-off location (additional courier fees may apply). Once your voucher is validated the lab will bill you for 50% and bill the RDN for <u>50% of the cost of the analysis</u> . <i>Note: courier fees are not eligible and cannot be applied to the voucher.</i> |

SHARING RESULTS: By consenting to share your water quality test results, you help to enhance the understanding of groundwater quality in our region. On the voucher there are two opportunities (check boxes) for sharing your water quality test results. The first is to share your results with only the RDN, allowing Drinking Water & Watershed Protection (DWWP) program staff to view your water quality results. The benefit is that staff can offer suggestions on and interpretation of your lab results, and allows water quality trends to be tracked at the regional level. Any reporting on results will be anonymous and regional in scale. The second is to also share your results with the Province of BC for groundwater research purposes. Your personal information will not be shared; only the water quality test results and an approximate GPS location. If you have questions, contact RDN Water Services at 250-390-6560.

HOW THE REBATE WORKS

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| STEP 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | PREPARE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print a voucher from the RDN website (www.RDNrebates.ca) or pick one up from our office (6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo). • Pick-up water sample bottles available from the locations listed on the above website. • Obtain a clean cooler and ice pack (to transport your water sample). • Read over the proper sample procedures and make a plan for how you will get your sample to the lab. |
| STEP 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | COMPLETION OF QUALIFYING WORK <p>Take a well water sample from your tap ensuring proper procedures (listed below) are followed, as samples can be easily contaminated. The water sample can be taken by the homeowner or by a well professional. Samples should be taken directly from a tap (not a hose). If an aerator is present remove it before you take your sample as bacteria can grow on the screen and compromise test results.</p> <p>How to take a water sample:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact lab to ensure they will accept sample that day. 2. Use sterile bottles from lab. 3. Select sample site – ideally kitchen faucet (drinking source) or a raw water tap (before treatment). 4. Label bottles with name, date, and time sample was collected. 5. Obtain sample: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands; Remove aerator and other attachments; Disinfect tap and run cold water at full force for at least 2 minutes; Remove bottle cap and DO NOT set down; Fill bottle and secure cap. 6. Keep water sample cool (on ice/refrigerated). 7. Deliver the samples to the lab within 24 hours. |
| OPTIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> | ATTEND A FREE WELLSMART WORKSHOP <p>Visit www.wellSmart.ca for workshop date(s) and registration information.</p> |
| STEP 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | SUBMIT YOUR VOUCHER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take your sample and voucher to a drop-off location (listed on the RDN website) or directly to the lab. • 50% off (up to \$150) will be taken off your bill in-lab. • The lab will send you your results and help you understand your findings. |
| <p>Visit www.RDNrebates.ca to see other rebates available from the RDN</p> | |