



## 2021 Well Water Testing Rebate Information

In the region, approximately 42% of residents depend on groundwater for drinking water; a large proportion of these residents have their own private well that they manage. 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 one-time rebates for well water tests (visit [www.RDNrebates.ca](http://www.RDNrebates.ca) for full 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, auto-immune 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 (i.e. services only a single-family dwelling) 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 (e.g. on Vancouver Island: Bureau Veritas Labs or M.B. Laboratories). For the full Directory of Qualified Laboratories in BC visit [www.nrs.gov.bc.ca/qualified-labs](http://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 to the lab (with pre-approved voucher) between January 1 and December 31, 2021.

**REBATE AMOUNT:** The RDN will provide an in-lab rebate of 50% off (up to \$175) a 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. Applicants must apply for pre-approval to “reserve” funds for eligible well-testing for up to 30 days. To receive the in-lab RDN rebate, pre-approved vouchers are submitted to the provincially approved lab of choice with your well water sample. Pre-approved vouchers must be submitted to the lab within 30 days or before Dec. 31, 2021, whichever is sooner. Any resident that receives this rebate may be subject to follow up contact by the RDN.

CATEGORY	REBATE	DESCRIPTION
Well Water Testing	50% off Up to \$175	<p><b>Full spectrum water quality analysis by Provincially approved laboratory.</b></p> <p>Sample bottles can be picked up from a lab or other pick-up location (see <b>RDN rebates webpage</b>). Take a water sample following proper sampling procedures. Drop off your sample with your RDN pre-approved voucher directly at the lab, at a qualified courier, or at a designated drop-off location (additional courier fees may apply).</p> <p>Once your pre-approved voucher is received by the lab, the applicant and the RDN will each be billed for <u>50% of the cost of the analysis</u> by the lab. <i>Note: courier fees are not eligible and cannot be applied to the voucher.</i></p>

**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

<b>STEP 1</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SUBMIT PRE-APPROVAL APPLICATION</b> Forms are available at <a href="http://www.rdn.bc.ca/well-water-testing">www.rdn.bc.ca/well-water-testing</a> . Submit your completed Pre-approval Application form by:  <b>Email: <a href="mailto:watersmart@rdn.bc.ca">watersmart@rdn.bc.ca</a></b>  <b>Mail or in person:</b> Attn: Drinking Water & Watershed Protection, Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, B.C., V9T 6N2  The RDN will review your pre-approval application, and confirm via email notification if you are approved for the rebate funds. At that point, an RDN-issued rebate voucher will be emailed or mailed to you, which you must redeem at the lab with your water sample within 30 days
<b>STEP 2</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PREPARE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pick-up water sample bottles available from the locations listed on the above website.</li> <li>• Obtain a clean cooler and ice pack (to transport your water sample).</li> <li>• Read over the proper sample procedures and plan for how you will get your sample to the lab.</li> </ul>
<b>OPTIONAL</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ATTEND A FREE WELLSMART WEBINAR</b> Visit <a href="http://www.wellSmart.ca">www.wellSmart.ca</a> for webinar dates and registration information.
<b>STEP 3</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>COMPLETION OF QUALIFYING WORK</b> Take a well water sample from your tap ensuring to follow proper procedures 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 a removable aerator is present, remove it before you take your sample as bacteria can grow on the screen and compromise test results.  <b>How to take a water sample:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact lab to confirm hours and days samples are accepted.</li> <li>2. Use sterile bottles from lab (see pick up locations via <a href="http://www.rdn.bc.ca/well-water-testing">www.rdn.bc.ca/well-water-testing</a>).</li> <li>3. Select sample location, e.g. kitchen faucet (drinking source), outside tap, pumphouse tap, etc.</li> <li>4. Label bottles with name, date, and time sample was collected. No other fields need to be completed.</li> <li>5. Obtain sample: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove aerator and other attachments;</li> <li>Disinfect tap and run cold water at full force for 2 – 5 minutes (until consistent cool temperature is reached, indicating well water rather than water sitting in pipes);</li> <li>Wash hands;</li> <li>Remove bottle cap and DO NOT let anything touch inside the lid;</li> <li>Fill bottle and secure cap.</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Keep water sample cool (on ice/refrigerated).</li> <li>7. Samples need to be received by the lab within 24 hours, ideally the same day they are taken.</li> </ol>
<b>STEP 4</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SUBMIT YOUR PRE-APPROVED VOUCHER</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit RDN issued rebate voucher with your samples to a Provincially approved lab.</li> <li>• A list of drop-off location is on the RDN website or take sample and voucher directly to the lab.</li> <li>• 50% off (up to \$175) will be taken off your bill in-lab.</li> </ul>
Visit <a href="http://www.RDNrebates.ca">www.RDNrebates.ca</a> to learn more about available rebates from the RDN.	