

# Well Water Testing Rebate Information

## BACKGROUND

In the region, approximately 42% of residents depend on groundwater for drinking water; many 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. To assist residents in maintaining and improving groundwater quality in rural areas, the RDN incentivizes sampling of private domestic wells through the Well Water Testing Rebate (rebate). Visit [www.rdnrebates.ca](http://www.rdnrebates.ca) for full details.

Island Health recommends bacteria testing one to three times a year. Ideally tests are performed 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 will be consuming your well water (e.g., elderly, young children, auto-immune disorder, etc.). Full chemical analysis is recommended every three to five years.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a residential landowner with a private domestic well servicing 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, chemical and bacteriological, analysis completed by a provincially approved lab on Vancouver Island, e.g., Bureau Veritas Labs or M.B. Laboratories.
- The full spectrum analysis must include Total Coliform and Escherichia coli (E. coli), pH, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Hardness, Nitrate, Nitrite, Sulphate, Fluoride, Chloride, and 30 element metals scan.
- RDN issued voucher must be submitted to the lab with your well water sample.
- Each private domestic well is eligible for one rebate every five years. All subsequent rebates are subject to sharing results with the RDN.
- Water purveyors and commercial properties are not eligible.

## REBATE AMOUNT

The RDN will provide an in-lab rebate of 50% off (\*up to \$250) a full spectrum analysis to approved applicants that meet the eligibility requirements. The rebate cannot be applied to courier charges.

## PRE-APPROVAL PROCESS

Private well owners must apply for pre-approval. Applications are processed between January 15 and December 15, allow four weeks for processing. If approved, RDN issued vouchers are valid for 30 days. Submit your RDN issued voucher to the laboratory with your well water sample to receive the 50% off\* rebate.

If five years have passed since the private domestic well on your property has received a rebate, well owners can apply for a subsequent rebate. All subsequent rebates are subject to sharing results with the RDN.

A limited number of rebates for well water testing are available; funds are allocated on a first come first served basis.

CATEGORY	REBATE	SUMMARY
Well Water Testing	50% off Up to \$250*	<p>Apply for pre-approval. Application results will be emailed or mailed.</p> <p>Pick up sample bottles from a lab or pick-up location.</p> <p>Take a well water sample following the sampling procedure.</p> <p>Eligible water quality analysis must be completed by provincially approved lab.</p> <p>Drop off your sample with your RDN issued voucher directly at the lab, courier, or drop-off location.</p> <p>Once your RDN issued voucher is received by the lab, the approved applicant will be billed for 50% of the cost of the analysis*.</p> <p>The rebate cannot be applied to courier charges.</p>

## SHARING RESULTS

By consenting to share your water quality test results with the RDN, 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 the RDN, allowing Drinking Water & Watershed Protection (DWWP) program staff to view your water quality results. The benefits are increasing the knowledge base of regional decision makers, supporting water quality trend analysis, and staff can offer support in interpreting your lab results. Any reporting on results will be anonymous and regional in scale. All subsequent rebates will automatically share well water quality data with the RDN.

The second is to also share your results with the Province of BC for groundwater research. Your personal information will not be shared, only the water quality test results and regional location.

If you have questions, contact RDN Water Services at 250-390-6560.

## INTERPRETING YOUR RESULTS

Using a third party accredited and provincially approved laboratory allows homeowners to confidently compare their well water test results to the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/water-quality/drinking-water/canadian-drinking-water-guidelines.html>).

The Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines layout which parameters have aesthetic objectives (taste, smell, and odour) and / or maximum allowable concentrations for health implications. These guidelines also indicate which parameters can impact water quality treatment systems.

## HOW THE REBATE WORKS

<b>STEP 1</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SUBMIT PRE-APPROVAL APPLICATION</b> <p>Forms are available at <a href="http://www.rdn.bc.ca/well-water-testing">www.rdn.bc.ca/well-water-testing</a>.</p> <p>Submit your completed pre-approval application by</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">email <a href="mailto:watermonitoring@rdn.bc.ca">watermonitoring@rdn.bc.ca</a>, or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">mail or drop off in person to Drinking Water &amp; Watershed Protection, Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, B.C., V9T 6N2.</p> <p>The RDN will review your pre-approval application within 4 weeks and reply via email / phone on rebate application status. If you are approved, an RDN rebate voucher will be issued.</p>
<b>STEP 2</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PREPARE</b> <p>Pick up water sample bottles available from the locations listed online under <a href="#">Where to get bottles and take your sample</a>.</p> <p>Obtain a clean clear cooler and ice pack to transport your water sample.</p> <p>Read the online <a href="#">well water sample procedure</a> and plan for how you will get your sample to the lab.</p> <p>Attend a free webinar or learn more about how to maintain and care for your well, <a href="http://www.wellsmart.ca">www.wellsmart.ca</a>.</p>
<b>STEP 3</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>TAKING A WATER SAMPLE</b> <p>Fill out the labs chain of custody or requisition form, write on your sample bottles the date, time, address, and RDN Rebate. Follow the proper sample collection procedures. Sample can be taken by homeowner or professional.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY SAMPLE PROCEDURE</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Confirm hours and days samples are accepted with lab/courier.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Wash hands well and take care not to contaminate your sample.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Use sterile bottles from lab.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Take sample directly from tap, if possible, remove aerator.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Disinfect tap. Run cold water at full force for 2 – 5 min.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Label bottles with name, address, date, sample time, and RDN rebate.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Fill bottle to fill line or bottom of neck. Secure lid. Complete lab requisition form.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Place sample in clean cooler with ice and take directly to lab/courier.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Samples need to be received by the lab within 24 hours.</p>
<b>STEP 4</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>RECEIVING 50% OFF*</b> <p>Submit your RDN issued rebate voucher with your well water sample to approved lab.</p> <p>Fifty percent off (*up to \$250) will be taken off your lab invoice.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Visit <a href="http://www.rdnrebates.ca">www.rdnrebates.ca</a> for a full list of rebates offered by the RDN</p>	