

# Well Water Testing Rebate Information

## BACKGROUND

In the region, over 40% of residents depend on groundwater for drinking water; many of these residents manage their own private well as their primary water source. Improperly constructed or poorly maintained wells can act as a direct pathway for surface contaminants such as fertilizers, petroleum products, and other contaminants to enter groundwater. To assist residents in maintaining and improving groundwater quality in local aquifers, 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. Full chemical analysis is recommended every three to five years. Tests can be completed during the rainy season when surface water can more readily contaminate groundwater, during the dry period when groundwater levels are in seasonal decline, when an immune compromised individual is drinking well water, or after work is completed on main plumbing lines, well pump, or wellhead.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a residential landowner with a private domestic well within the RDN (Electoral Areas A, B, C, E, F, G, H, and member municipalities Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach). Water purveyors and commercial properties are not eligible.
- Well water tests must include both chemical and bacterial analysis (Total Coliform, Escherichia coli, pH, Total Dissolved Solids, Hardness, Nitrate, Nitrite, Sulphate, Fluoride, Chloride, and elemental metals scan).
- Well water tests must be completed by a provincially approved laboratory.
- Each private domestic well is eligible for one rebate every five years.

## REBATE OVERVIEW

If eligibility requirements are met, the RDN will rebate 50% (up to \$300 rebated) of the laboratory's analysis costs.

To receive a rebate, submit the Pre-approval Application form. If approved, you will be issued an RDN identification code.

Include the RDN ID on the laboratory form and sample bottles, submit the sample to a provincially approved laboratory.

Once the lab analysis has been completed, submit a rebate Claim Form with required documentation to the RDN.

Claim forms must be submitted within 90 days and within the same calendar year that the pre-approval was given.

Allow 6 weeks for processing applications and forms.

## SHARING RESULTS

When you apply for a Well Water Testing Rebate you agree to share your water quality test results with the RDN, allowing Drinking Water & Watershed Protection (DWWP) program staff to view your water quality results. By sharing your results, you help to enhance the understanding of groundwater quality in our region and contribute to increasing the knowledge base of regional decision makers, supporting water quality trend analysis. Any reporting of results will be anonymous, none of your personal information will be shared.

On the pre-approval application you can choose to share your water quality test results with the Province of BC for provincial groundwater research. Only results and aquifer location will be shared.

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

## HOW THE REBATE WORKS

<p><b>STEP 1</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>SUBMIT REBATE APPLICATION FORM</b></p> <p>Submit your completed application form (<a href="http://www.rdn.bc.ca/well-water-testing">www.rdn.bc.ca/well-water-testing</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- email <a href="mailto:watermonitoring@rdn.bc.ca">watermonitoring@rdn.bc.ca</a>,</li> <li>- mail / drop off to Drinking Water &amp; Watershed Protection, Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, B.C., V9T 6N2.</li> </ul> <p>Allow six weeks for processing.</p> <p>If approved, an RDN issued identification number will be issued.</p>
<p><b>STEP 2</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>PREPARE</b></p> <p>Be WellSmart - attend a free webinar or learn more about how to maintain and care for your well, <a href="http://www.rdn.bc.ca/wellsmart">www.rdn.bc.ca/wellsmart</a>.</p> <p>Determine <a href="#">which laboratory</a> and analysis package to select, and how to get your sample to the lab.</p> <p>Pick up water sample bottles available from the locations listed online under <a href="#">where to get bottles and take your sample</a> or contact your lab of choice to see if a sample package can be mailed to you.</p> <p>Review the online <a href="#">well water sample procedure</a>, confirm hours and days samples are accepted, and know how to get your sample to the lab within the required timeframe.</p>
<p><b>STEP 3</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>TAKING A WATER SAMPLE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using sterile bottles from the lab, samples can be taken by homeowner or a professional.</li> <li>- Fill out the labs chain of custody/requisition form and write on the sample bottles the RDN issued ID, your name, the date, the well address, and the time you will take your sample.</li> <li>- Wash hands well and take care not to contaminate your sample.</li> <li>- If possible, remove aerator. Disinfect tap. Run cold water at full force for 2 – 5 min.</li> <li>- Take the sample directly from tap. Fill bottle to fill line or bottom of neck. Secure lid.</li> <li>- Place sample in clean container, box, or cooler with ice and take directly to lab/courier.</li> <li>- Sample needs to stay below 8 degrees Celsius and need to be analyzed by the lab within 24 hours of collection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STEP 4</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>RECEIVING 50% OFF REBATE</b></p> <p>Select a water sample package that meets the requirements of the rebate program.</p> <p>Take photos of your RDN issued ID recorded on your lab form and water sample bottles.</p> <p>Submit your sample package to a provincially approved lab.</p> <p>Pay the lab and receive your results.</p> <p>Submit a Claim Form with required documents to the RDN.</p> <p>If you have met the program requirements, a cheque for half the cost of the lab analysis (to a maximum of \$300 rebated) will be mailed to the address on your application form.</p>
<p>Visit <a href="http://www.rdnrebates.ca">www.rdnrebates.ca</a> for a full list of rebates offered by the RDN</p>	