

# Monitoring Your Well

## *Did you know...*

- *If your home is on a private well system, you are solely responsible for monitoring the quality of the water?*
- *Water that appears clean and clear may include potentially harmful materials?*
- *You should test your well annually?*
- *Different well types and their age require different levels of monitoring?*
- *You can contact your local Health Department to have your well water tested?*

### Who can I contact for more information?

- Local Health Department
- Local Conservation District
- West Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
- WV Department of Environmental Protection

If your home is supplied by well water, you are solely responsible for monitoring the quality of the water. For the health of your family and the value of your property, pay attention to your water quality.

### **Signs of potential problems with your well water**

- Members of your household have reoccurring gastrointestinal problems.
- Water has an objectionable taste or smell.
- Pipes show signs of corrosion.
- Water is cloudy or colored.
- Water supply equipment wears out rapidly, including pumps or water heaters.
- Water leaves a residue or stains plumbing fixtures or laundry.

### **Test your water annually for the following**

- **Total Coliform Bacteria** (Presence indicates unsanitary conditions and the possibility of pathogenic microorganism)
- **Nitrates** (High levels are particularly harmful to expectant mothers and newborn infants)
- **pH** (Extremes may corrode household plumbing)
- **Total Dissolved Solids** (Concentration of dissolved materials in your water)
- **Lead** (Lead poses a variety of health risks associated with the brain and nervous system)

In addition, test for contaminants that you are likely to encounter. Based on surrounding land uses, test for fertilizer and pesticide contamination. It is important to keep records of tests and results; this will enable you to identify changes in water quality due to contamination or deterioration of the system. Routine testing is the only way to assure that your water supply is safe.