

MU Extension Water testing decision tree

If someone contacts your office asking about water testing, see the questions and decision tree on the reverse.

If clients are asking about pesticide residue testing of water, or any other testing not listed, they will need to find a private lab to conduct the testing. For a list of private laboratories that are certified by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MODNR) to conduct drinking water analysis, please contact MODNR Public Drinking Water Program at 573-751-5331.

Note that this fact sheet only covers WATER testing, not soil testing. More information on soil testing is available here: <https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/soil-and-plant-testing-laboratory/spl-water-analysis> Note also that for questions about municipal/ public water supplies, please contact the local water district of the MO Department of Natural Resources. For questions on sewage testing, contact your local solid waste department or MO Dept of Natural Resources.

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If someone contacts your office asking about water testing, here are some questions to ask to get them in the right direction.

What is the client using the water for?

Irrigation or post-harvest use with fruits, vegetables, or herbs *for sale*

Irrigating crops (other than fruit, vegetables, or herbs)

Watering livestock and poultry

Household use

What do they want to test for?

Microbial testing

Information on free testing available through local public health departments (funded by an MU/KSU grant) is on the bottom of this webpage:

www.ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/produce/testing.html

pH, nitrates, nutrients, hardness, etc.

Through MU Extension Soils Lab:

<https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/soil-and-plant-testing-laboratory/spl-water-analysis>

Chemical Analysis

(Available in some counties).
Contact local public health department*

Microbial Analysis

MDHSS will test for \$10**

<https://health.mo.gov/lab/privatedrinkingwater.php>

*contact your local public health department as SOME counties will provide free chemical testing of private wells used for drinking water. Some counties do not provide this testing. Chemical tests that may be conducted on water includes pH, nitrates, fluoride, lead, minerals, and other metals. If your county health department does not provide this testing, you can also contact the MO Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology:

<https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/hazsubstancesites/index.php>

** note that these samples can also be dropped off at your local public health department. This testing is for private wells used for drinking water only.