

# Town of Wells Private Water Concerns

Have you tested your drinking water?



## Arsenic is found more often in Wells than other towns in Vermont.

Two out of five tested private water supplies in the town of Wells had elevated levels of arsenic in their water.



The town of Wells had higher levels of **arsenic** than anywhere else in the state.



## Where does it come from?

Arsenic and other harmful water contaminants, such as uranium, can be found naturally in the Earth's crust. These elements are most commonly found in Vermont's bedrock. Different land uses near wells and springs can also cause contamination.



## What are the health risks?

Exposure to arsenic may increase your risk of developing bladder, lung or skin cancer. Other common groundwater contaminants, such as bacteria can cause stomach or digestion problems. Some symptoms may not develop for years.



## What can you do?

Testing is the only way to know if contaminants are in your water supply. Most common contaminants in Vermont's private water systems, including arsenic, have no smell, no color and no taste. The Health Department recommends testing your water regularly to make sure it is safe to drink.



## More information:

To order the Health Department's recommended set of tests:



Scan the QR code to the left or call 802-338-4724 to purchase the Vermont Homeowner Testing Package for \$159.

For information about recommended testing for common groundwater contaminants in Vermont, go to [www.HealthVermont.gov/Water/Testing](http://www.HealthVermont.gov/Water/Testing)

For more information about how to interpret your results or discuss treatment options based on your results, email [ahs.VDHDDrinkingWaterProgram@vermont.gov](mailto:ahs.VDHDDrinkingWaterProgram@vermont.gov) or call 802-489-7339.

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Learn more at [HealthVermont.gov](http://HealthVermont.gov)





# Funding Assistance for Private Water Systems

October 2024

Financial assistance is available to help Vermonters whose homes have failing water systems. You may be eligible for funding if your home has a failing water system with a lack of water or dangerous water quality.

## Vermont Wastewater and Potable Water Revolving Loan Fund

The **On-Site Loan Program** is available to certain Vermont residents for the repair or replacement of failed water supply and on-site wastewater systems. To be eligible for the program you must:

- Have a “failed” drinking water supply
- Live in your home year-round
- Make less than 200% of Vermont’s median household income

The On-Site Loan Program is funded and administered by the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation with loan underwriting and servicing provided by the Opportunities Credit Union in Winooski Call the On-Site Loan Program at 802-461-6051 or visit [dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/water-financing/on-site-loan](https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/water-financing/on-site-loan) for more information.

## The NeighborWorks Alliance of Vermont

The NeighborWorks Alliance is made up of five local organizations offering full affordable housing services for income-eligible individuals. You may qualify for help from this program if you need money to install a water treatment system, drill a well, or repair or replace your septic system. For more information on eligibility, contact the local NeighborWorks Group in your region at [www.VTHomeOwnership.org](http://www.VTHomeOwnership.org).

## ARPA Healthy Homes Initiative

The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide safe and reliable drinking water sources and wastewater disposal systems for Vermonters. This program has been opened on a rolling basis to provide financial assistance to residential property owners, including owner-occupied multi-family properties with up to four units for the repair or replacement of failing or inadequate on-site water and/or wastewater systems. Check to see if this program is currently accepting applicants and sign up for their mailing list for updates at [bit.ly/ARPA-water-systems](https://bit.ly/ARPA-water-systems).

## Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) Program and Loans

The Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP) has partnered with RCAP Solutions (North Eastern Rural Community Assistance Partnership) to provide low-interest

loans to construct, refurbish or replace individual water well systems and septic systems for eligible homeowners. Here are the requirements:

- Your residence must be in an eligible rural area, town, or community (defined as geographic area with 50,000 residents or less) in the RCAP Solutions service area of: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- You must own (or provide recorded Lifetime Rights) and occupy the home being improved.
- Your household limit is under the state median income limit.
- New home construction and community water systems are not eligible.

Learn more and fill out a loan application at [RCAPSolutions.org/private-wells-assistance](https://RCAPSolutions.org/private-wells-assistance). Contact SERCAP by phone at 540-345-1184 ext. 159 or email [LoanFund@sercap.org](mailto:LoanFund@sercap.org).

### **USDA Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants**

This program managed by the Rural Development Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture offers loans and grants to existing homeowners for well construction, repair and sealing. You may be eligible if:

- You live in a rural area or a community with a population of 25,000 or less.
- Your family income is less than 50% of the median income for your county
- If you are 62 years of age or older, you may qualify for a grant or a combination of a loan and a grant. Younger applicants are eligible only for loans. For more information call the USDA Rural Development Office at 802-828-6022.