

MORE ABOUT ARSENIC

Arsenic occurs naturally

Arsenic is an element that occurs naturally in sulfide minerals in soil and bedrock formations and has been deposited in the soil and bedrock layers over millions of years. Traces of arsenic are found in groundwater, lakes, rivers and ocean water. Foods like fruits, vegetables and seafood can contain trace amounts of arsenic.

Since arsenic is a natural part of our environment, everyone is exposed to small amounts. Arsenic is used by some industries, but this use does not typically affect groundwater quality

Arsenic in groundwater from private wells is not regulated by any federal or state agency and there are no mandatory testing requirements.

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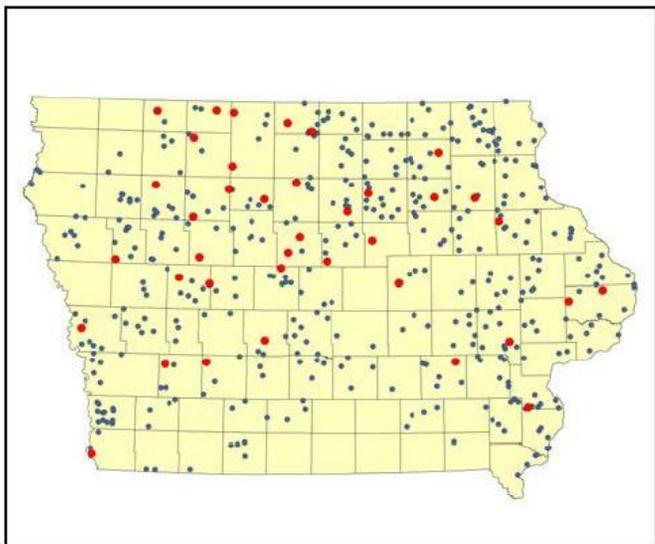
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[Street Address]
[City, ST ZIP Code]

[Recipient Name]
[Address]
[City, ST ZIP Code]

Arsenic in Iowa's Drinking Water

Butler County Environmental Health
428- 6th St, Allison, IA 50602 P:319-267-2934





8% of the 475 private wells checked throughout Iowa between 2006 and 2008 in a University of Iowa study tested higher than the health threshold of 0.010 mg/L or 10 ppb for arsenic. - SWRL 2 Private Well Study

Health officials encourage private well owners to have their wells tested for arsenic which is now being offered as a **Free Test** through Butler County Environmental Health.

Treatment Options

While treatment for private wells is not required, it is strongly encouraged that well owners consider treatment or a different source for their **drinking water** if arsenic content in their well is above 0.010 mg/L. If arsenic levels are above 0.200 mg/L an entirely different source of water should be considered for **all water uses**.

For private wells, arsenic can be removed with a reverse osmosis type of water treatment system, a distiller, or a filter bed of activated alumina. Because it is not necessary to treat all of the water in a home, treatment needs can be met by installing a "point of use" treatment system at a convenient location at the kitchen sink, or the water tap on the refrigerator and icemaker.

There are also systems that treat all of the water entering the house. Information on specific water treatment products is available from the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) website at <http://www.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU>. Any water treatment system advertised for sale or sold in Iowa must be registered with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). Please visit the following IDPH website for more information:

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EHS/WaterTreatmentSystems.aspx>.

It is important to contact a water treatment system sales professional to discuss options that would best suit your family. They will be able to determine the best system to install for arsenic removal based on water quality and your individual water needs.

Arsenic and Your Health

People who are exposed to arsenic levels significantly above the health threshold over a period of years can experience a variety of health problems. Chronic health effects include an increased risk of cancer and other life-threatening diseases. The strongest evidence shows a link between arsenic and skin, bladder, and lung cancer, with bladder and lung cancer being the biggest concern. Some studies suggest arsenic may also increase the risk of prostate, kidney, liver and other cancers, but the data is not conclusive. Other studies indicate that arsenic may have non-cancer effects including cardiovascular diseases such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and stroke; diabetes; reproductive problems; and immune and nervous system problems. If you have health concerns regarding arsenic in groundwater, please contact your doctor.

Contact Us

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CALL FOR FREE ARSENIC WATER TEST!!

***Also test for total coliform bacteria, e.coli & nitrates.**