



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY Environmental Health Division

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Water Quality Testing Requirements

What tests are required for a permit?

The results of the following water quality tests must be performed by an Environmental Laboratory Accreditations Program (ELAP) accredited, or otherwise departmentally approved laboratory.

- A. For all well construction (domestic, irrigation, industrial), the following tests are required: nitrate, total dissolved solids, chloride, iron, manganese, and hexavalent chromium for wells south of Valencia Creek. Ref. 7.70.110 (B)
- B. For new or existing wells that are seeking a permit as an Individual Water System, (IWS, required for domestic wells):
 - i. Bacteriological analysis for total coliform organisms (presence/absence). Ref 7.73.070 (A)
 - ii. Chemical Analysis for the following inorganic primary contaminants, as well as some secondary contaminants that are important for well maintenance:
Aluminum, Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chloride**, Total Chromium, Hexavalent Chromium*, Conductivity**, Cyanide, Fluoride, Iron, Manganese, Mercury, Nickel, Nitrate, Nitrite, Selenium, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)**, Thallium. Ref 7.73.070 (B)

*Hexavalent Chromium testing is required if well is located South of Valencia Creek. Newly constructed wells must do this testing as described in Section A.

** Chloride, Conductivity, and TDS are required for wells in the Coastal Zone and when requested by the County due to known water quality risks. Newly constructed wells must do this testing as described in Section A.

Additional analyses including Aggressivity, Alkalinity, Bicarbonate, Bromide, Calcium, Carbonate, Color, Copper Hardness, Hydroxide, Langelier Index, Lead, Magnesium, MBAS (Surfactants), Odor pH, Potassium, Silver, Sulfate, Sodium, Turbidity, and Zinc are strongly recommended, but are not required.

Asbestos and Perchlorate, while included in Title-22, are not typically found within Santa Cruz County and are therefore waived unless specifically requested by the County.

How do I test my well?

For a new well construction, the Licensed Well Driller that you hire can collect the samples and have them tested at an accredited lab.

For an existing well seeking an IWS permit, the following companies can offer both yield and water quality testing which are required for the permit:

| Contractor Name | Phone Number | Well Yield | Water Quality |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| ASH, FRED & SON-LYNCH PUMP | (831) 637-8534 | ✓ | ✓ |
| CAPITOLA PUMP | (831) 475-5364 | ✓ | |
| CHAPPELL PUMP CO | (408) 842-3113 | ✓ (Watsonville Only) | |
| DOS PALOS WELL DRILLING | (209) 587-0935 | ✓ | ✓ |
| DOUGHERTY PUMP& DRILLING | (831) 663-3562 | ✓ | ✓ |
| EATON DRILLING CO | (530) 662-6795 | ✓ | ✓ |
| HALSTEAD PUMP | (831) 688-4731 | ✓ | ✓ |
| K H PUMPS | (831) 761-2180 | ✓ | ✓ |
| LANDINO DRILLING CO | (831) 426-4129 | ✓ | ✓ |
| MAGGIORA BROS. DRILLING, INC | (831) 724-1338 | ✓ | ✓ |
| SUPERIOR PUMP CO | (831) 688-7867 | ✓ | ✓ |
| TOM'S WELL SERVICE | (831) 423-4107 | ✓ | ✓ |

Environmental Health also maintains a list of accredited Water Testing Laboratories on our website at <https://scceh.com/NewHome/Programs/WaterResources/SmallWaterSystemRegulatory.aspx>.

The State Water Resources Control Board allows you to search accredited laboratories by address at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/labs/