

Bernardsville Borough

WELL TESTING

Lead Testing Available for Public Water Users!

Dates and locations to purchase a kit:

APRIL 28

E-Waste Day @ Bernards High School 8:00am-1:00pm

APRIL 30 - MAY 2

Bernardsville Borough Hall, 166 Mine Brook Road

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Samples must then be returned to Borough Hall on May 3 from 7:00 to 10:00 am.



WHAT'S
IN YOUR
WATER?

Basic Kit \$60
(coliform and nitrates)
Arsenic \$35
Lead \$25
Iron \$15
Radon \$50
Gross Alpha \$80

*other testing options available

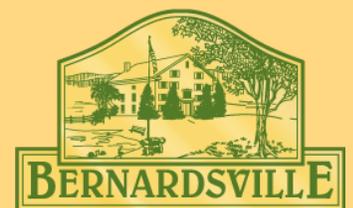
For more info. visit
TestMyWell.org

or call the RHA Well Testing office
908-234-1852 ext 401



**Raritan
Headwaters**

COMMUNITY WELL TESTING PROGRAM



Water Testing Available to Bernardsville Residents

Is your tap water safe to drink? If your water comes from a private well, there's no way to tell it's free of contaminants unless you have it tested. That's why Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA), the region's clean water watchdog, recommends that all local households with wells test their water annually. Those residents served by public water are encouraged to test for lead, particularly if they live in a home built before 1986.

"Like annual preventative health screenings, an annual well test for bacteria and nitrates is an important part of maintaining good health," explained Mara Tippet, well test manager for RHA. "You cannot see, smell or taste common well water contaminants. If a test finds contamination, there are measures that can be taken to correct it."

This spring, Bernardsville Borough will team up with Raritan Headwaters to offer water testing at an affordable cost. Residents can purchase water sample collection kits at the Borough's E-Waste Day held at **Bernards High School on Saturday, April 28th** from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or at the **Bernardsville Borough Hall, April 30th through May 2nd** from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Water samples must then be dropped off at Borough Hall on Thursday, May 3rd from 7:00-10:00am. Test results will be available two weeks later.

Unlike public drinking water systems, private wells are not required by law to be regularly checked for contamination before the water is sent to the tap.

Raritan Headwaters is a nonprofit watershed conservation organization working to protect and preserve the public's access to safe, clean water that is swimmable, fishable and most importantly, drinkable. Eighty percent of the residents of this region – about 320,000 people - obtain their drinking water through wells.

Well water pollutants found in the region include coliform bacteria, nitrate, arsenic, iron, radon and volatile organic compounds. Sources of contamination include failing septic systems, chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and naturally-occurring contaminants like arsenic. Water may also become contaminated with lead and copper as it travels through older pipes in the home.

Raritan Headwaters offers a "basic kit" for coliform bacteria and nitrate for \$60 and a lead test kit for \$25. Residents may also test for other potential contaminants at an additional cost.

Staff members at RHA are available to advise citizens who are uncertain about which tests to order and to review individual results after testing is complete. More information on the tests we offer can be found at www.testmywell.org. Testing is performed by a private state certified laboratory and results are confidential.

The Community Well Testing program was established in 1974, allowing RHA to monitor the health of our region's groundwater supply for over four decades. Raritan Headwaters recently completed a 30-year trend analysis of well water tests result in the region, which showed an increase in arsenic levels in several towns as well as slight increases in coliform bacteria and nitrate concentrations.

"Your private well is an important investment that is best protected by regular check-ups to ensure a reliable and safe source of drinking water for you and your family," said Tippet.

Residents who aren't able to take advantage of the Bernardsville Community Well Test event can contact Tippet to arrange to pick up a test kit at RHA's Bedminster office. She can be contacted at 908-234-1852, ext. 401 or welltesting@raritanheadwaters.org.

For more information about Raritan Headwaters and its programs and preserves, go to www.raritanheadwaters.org.