

PA-DEP Recommended Basic Oil & Gas Pre-Drill Parameters

The PA DEP has developed the following list of parameters that are recommended for homeowners who wish to have their private well tested. The following list is not an exhaustive list of testing, homeowners may wish to have their water tested for a more extensive list of parameters. Additionally, while it is not recommended, if a homeowner wishes to test for less than the recommended list, the minimum parameters that should be analyzed for are printed in **bold** in the table below. It is recommended that homeowners test their water within one year prior to well drilling. Homeowners can sign up for DEP's e-notice system to receive notice of well permit applications DEP has received for wells in the area they choose. The website address is: <http://www.ahs2.dep.state.pa.us/eNOTICEWeb/>

Analyte (Inorganic)
Alkalinity
Chloride
Conductivity
Hardness
Oil and Grease
pH*
Sulfate
Residue – Filterable (TDS)*
Residue – Non Filterable (TSS)

Analyte (Trace Metal)
Barium
Calcium
Iron*
Magnesium
Manganese*
Potassium
Sodium*
Strontium

Analyte (Organic)
Ethane*
Methane*

Analyte (Microbiology)
Total Coliform/E.coli

* As a minimum, a homeowner wishing to have their private well tested should analyze for these parameters.

How to find a laboratory to perform the testing:

1. The PA DEP Laboratory Accreditation Program offers a "Search PA Accredited Environmental Laboratories" option at the following website www.depweb.state.pa.us/labs. Choose "Laboratory Accreditation Program" on the right-hand side of the page. Scroll to "Search Environmental Laboratories." Use this search to find a laboratory accredited to perform these tests. **NOTE:** Read the Search instructions carefully to ensure a valid search result.
2. Contact a local laboratory and ask if it can perform the above testing or if it could help you find a laboratory.
3. Contact the PA DEP Laboratory Accreditation Program via e-mail at eplabaccredit@state.pa.us or via telephone at 717-346-7200.

What to ask/tell the laboratory before you send samples:

1. Inform the chosen laboratory that you are a homeowner who wants to have well water tested for Oil & Gas Pre-Drill parameters.
2. Ask the laboratory if it is accredited to perform the requested testing. If the laboratory is not, ask if it will sub-contract to an accredited laboratory.
3. Ask the laboratory if it provides sample-collection services. The Department recommends that a third party (a consultant or the laboratory) collect and transport the sample for testing.
4. Instruct the laboratory to perform the testing and reporting of your sample(s) in accordance with all Chapter 252 Accreditation Requirements.