

# Strontium in Private Well Water

**Strontium is a mineral that is commonly found in soil, bedrock, and groundwater.**

Strontium can interfere with how bones develop by replacing calcium in bones and suppressing vitamin D metabolism and intestinal calcium absorption.

**Test for strontium if you live in eastern or northern Wisconsin.\***



Test twice over a two-year period. Its best to test in the fall and spring.



Test using a [Wisconsin certified lab](#).\*

**Take action if the strontium level is equal to or greater than 1,500 micrograms per liter (µg/L).**



Collect a second sample to verify the results.

**Take additional actions if strontium is still high.**



Use a different source of water for drinking, making baby formula, and making foods that take up a lot of water (like oatmeal, rice and jello).

Options for different water include:



Bottled water



Water from a well without issues



Water from a public system



The water can still be used for bathing, brushing teeth, and washing dishes.



Find a long-term solution. This may be drilling a new well or installing a treatment device.\*

★ = Additional information is available in the *Resource Guide* (next page).



## ★ Resource Guide ★



Households with pregnant people and young children may be eligible for **free testing** through their local health department. Find contact information for your health department at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties/index.htm).



Strontium has been found in higher levels in groundwater in the in the **eastern and northern parts of Wisconsin**. Learn more at [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Groundwater/GCC/researchHighlights.html#arsenic](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Groundwater/GCC/researchHighlights.html#arsenic)



When testing, you should use a **lab** certified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). You can find a list of certified labs at [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/labCert/certified-lab-lists](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/labCert/certified-lab-lists).



The DNR provides **grants** to address water quality issues in private wells. Learn about eligibility and covered expenses at [dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/WellCompensation.html](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/WellCompensation.html).



While there are no **treatment devices** certified for strontium, water softeners have been shown to be effective in many cases. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) can assist you in finding an appropriate device. Contact them at [DSPSSBProductTech@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DSPSSBProductTech@wisconsin.gov) or 608-266-2112.



### **You should also test for arsenic, bacteria, and nitrate regularly.**

You can find information on these and other substances to consider testing at: [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/private.html](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/private.html).



You can find all this information and more at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/strontium.htm>.

**Questions? Concerns?**

Contact us at  
[DHSEnvHealth@wi.gov](mailto:DHSEnvHealth@wi.gov)  
or 608-266-1120.