



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

FACTS ABOUT: Sampling Your Drinking Water for Petroleum-Related Compounds

The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Oil Control Program (OCP) recommends that all owners of private water supply wells sample their well periodically for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by EPA method 524.2 to ensure that the water meets applicable regulatory standards for potable use. Sampling should be performed at least once and repeated if a change in taste, odor, or appearance of well water occurs. If sample results indicate any detections, they should be reported to the OCP.

The following is a list of additional resources for facts and information about sampling your drinking water supply well:

- MDE OCP list of laboratories:
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/OilControl/Documents/Testing_Labs_County_11.3.09_2_pgs_LMAchange.pdf
- MDE Residential Wells website:
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Pages/Residential_Wells.aspx
- MDE Individual Well Recommendations:
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Pages/well_recommendations.aspx
- University of Maryland Extension Protect Your Water Supply:
<https://extension.umd.edu/learn/protect-your-water-supply>
- Environmental Protection Agency Private Drinking Water Wells:
<https://www.epa.gov/privatewells>

Your county health department may also be able to provide information on sampling your supply well for petroleum-related compounds. If you have additional questions, or to report a detection of petroleum-compounds in your drinking water, please contact the MDE OCP at 410-537-3442.

