

POTABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW DRINKING WATER SUPPLY WELLS

Code of Maryland Regulation 26.04.04, "Well Construction" requires the issuance of a certificate of potability for all newly constructed drinking water supply wells. "Potable" means that:

- 1) The well has been constructed in accordance with COMAR 26.04.04
- 2) The water is safe to drink and complies with the bacteriological and chemical requirements as established by COMAR 26.04.01 and COMAR 26.04.04.
- 3) The well identification tag has been installed by the well driller
- 4) The well completion report (and well abandonment report, if applicable) has been submitted to this office by the well driller

After the well has been constructed, the person who installs the pump, or connects the well to an existing pump, is responsible for chlorinating the well and household plumbing. Once the chlorine has been added, the water must be run from both the outside and inside faucets until the smell of chlorine is detected. Once the chlorine smell is detected, discontinue running the water, and let the chlorinated water remain undisturbed in the plumbing for a minimum of 12 hours. After this 12 hour period is over, the water should be run off through an **outside** hose until there is no longer a smell of chlorine. This step often takes several days so running the water through an outside tap prevents overtaxing of your septic system. When all traces of chlorine have been thoroughly flushed from the well and the plumbing system, the water supply is ready to be sampled.

A Maryland certified water laboratory (scroll down to see a Partial Listing of Local State Certified Drinking Water Testing Laboratories) must be contacted to schedule the sampling of the well for the following parameters:

- a) bacteria (coli form and e coli),
- b) nitrates, turbidity and total arsenic. *In order for the water supply to comply with the potability requirements of COMAR 26.04.04 there must be no bacteria present in the water supply as confirmed by the collection of **two consecutive negative bacteriological samples.***
- c) Arsenic (The State of Maryland has adopted the United States Environmental Protection Agency's standard for arsenic in private drinking water well. Therefore, if a sample of your new well exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level for Arsenic (10 ppb) a Certificate of Potability will not be granted until such time as the well is in compliance with the required Arsenic standard. Additional correspondence from this office (including an Agreement for a Permanent Deviation to Issue a Certificate of Potability for an Individual Drinking Well Requiring an On-Site Treatment System) will be provided if the water supply exceeds the maximum contaminant level). This Deviation Agreement form must be signed by the Health Department, Property Owner and a Notary/Witness and filed in the Land Records Office of the Talbot County Court House.

Please be advised that the property owner is responsible for providing this office with copies of the results of the laboratory's bacteriological and chemical analysis (copies of the laboratory analysis may be faxed to this office at 410-770-6888).

PARTIAL LISTING OF LOCAL STATE CERTIFIED
WATER LABORATORIES

Water Testing Lab 1000 Butterworth Court Stevensville, MD 21666	Office: 410-643-7711 410-820-8485 Toll Free: 800-200-5323
Chesapeake Environmental Lab, Inc. 302 Love Point Road PO Box 946 Stevensville, MD 21666	Office: 410-643-0800 Toll Free: 800-300-8378
Environmental Testing Lab 108 Old Solomon's Island Road Annapolis, MD 21401	Office: 410-224-4304 Toll Free: 800-222-4833