

Atrazine in Private Well Water

Atrazine is a weed killer that has been used on crops in Wisconsin for many years.

Atrazine can get into groundwater from runoff, spills, and improper storage. High levels of atrazine may increase the risk of cancer and affect the nervous system, heart, and liver.

Test for atrazine if you live near agricultural fields or areas where pesticides are made, stored, or mixed.



Complete a screening test from the [Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene](#) or the [University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point](#).*

Take action if the atrazine level is equal to or greater than 3 micrograms per liter (µg/L).



Contact the [Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection \(DATCP\)](#) for a free, follow-up sample.*

Take additional actions if atrazine 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 installing a certified treatment device or drilling a new well.*

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





★ Resource Guide ★



Information on the **Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene** screening test can be found at www.slh.wisc.edu/environmental/educational-resources/atrazine-screening-test.



Information on the **University of Wisconsin Steven Point** screening test can be found at www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/weal/Pages/Homeowner.aspx.



For **follow-up sampling**, DATCP can be reached at datcpqw@wi.gov or 608-224-4502.



The DNR provides **grants** to help address contamination in private wells. Learn about eligibility and covered expenses at dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/WellCompensation.html.



Our *Water Treatment Devices for Private Well Contaminants* fact sheet has information on certified **treatment devices** for atrazine: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03494.pdf.



DATCP regulates atrazine in Wisconsin. You can learn more about areas where **atrazine use** is prohibited at datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/Atrazine.aspx



You should also test your well for arsenic, bacteria, and nitrate regularly.

You can find information on these and other substances to consider for testing at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/private.htm.

You can find all this information and more at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/atrazine.htm.

Questions? Concerns?
Contact us at
DHSEnvHealth@wi.gov
or 608-266-1120.