

Australian Water Quality Centre
RESIDENTIAL BORE WATER TESTING - HUMAN CONSUMPTION
Information Sheet

Bore water does not have the same level of security as that provided to households connected to reticulated supplies. Public water supplies are tested frequently but it is not feasible for private owners to constantly test their bore water. After the initial analysis, the bore water quality may change over time and should be checked periodically and monitored by the owner (shallow bores may need more frequent testing). If at any stage there are changes in appearance or odour of the water, additional water quality testing is advised.

If you have a bore that is used for **commercial or public purposes** the testing requirements may be different. Please contact the SA Health's Scientific Services on 08 8226 7100 to obtain further information.

Microbiological tests

Water in bores can sometimes be contaminated by micro-organisms from human, bird or animal faeces. Common sources include leaking septic tanks; waste water drainage and bird/possum faeces. The micro-organism tested (*E.coli*) will provide you with an indication if your borewater has been contaminated in this way.

Due to the strict sampling requirements for microbiological analysis, it is **recommended** these water samples be collected by **AWQC Field Services Officers only**. This process typically involves flaming the source tap, taking the sample in a sterile bottle leaving an air gap, chilling the sample, and importantly, ensuring the sample arrives at the laboratory within 24 hours of collection. **Samples not meeting these requirements may deem the sample unsuitable and therefore accuracy of results cannot be guaranteed.**

Chemical tests

The quality of bore water can vary widely depending on the quality of the groundwater that is its source. Common water quality problems include high salinity and high levels of nitrate/nitrite which can cause "blue baby" syndrome. High levels of iron in the water can cause iron bacteria to build up in agricultural dripper systems. Other heavy metals as well as volatile organic compounds can also be present due to industrial contamination.

What to test for?

The AWQC offers a package of microbiological and chemical testing **designed for private bores only**; please refer to application form for further details on requesting the services of AWQC. The analyses included in the test packages (refer next page) have been developed in consultation with SA Health. If you wish to collect the samples yourself, AWQC can provide the appropriate bottles and instructions.

Analysis	Bottle Type
E.coli	1 x Sterile 300mL plastic, with an air gap, kept chilled
Chloride, Total Chloride Calculation, Fluoride, Oxidised Nitrogen, Nitrate, Nitrite	1 x 350mL plastic, with no air gap, kept chilled
Volatile Organic Compounds <i>This is only deemed necessary for bores within metropolitan Adelaide by SA Health.</i>	1 x 500mL Glass, with no air gap, kept chilled
pH, Conductivity and Total Dissolved Solids	1 x 250mL plastic, with no air gap, kept chilled
Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Soluble Boron, Cadmium, Calcium, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Mercury, Molybdenum, Nickel, Potassium, Selenium, Silver, Sodium, Sulphur, Uranium, Vanadium and Zinc, Total Hardness Calculation, Total Magnesium Calculation.	1 x 250mL HDPE RO-rinsed Bottle, kept chilled

To proceed with testing

This application form can be returned by email: customerservice@awqc.com.au, fax: 1300 883 171 or post to: AWQC, Attn. Customer Service Unit, PO Box 1751, Adelaide SA 5001.

Once we receive your application we will send you a formal Customer Service Request with a proposed sample date (unfortunately we cannot provide a precise time of collection). **To begin the work we require the 2nd page (work acceptance section) of the Customer Service Request to be completed and returned before testing can commence. If the Customer Service Request was emailed, a response to the email confirming you wish to proceed will be sufficient.**

Important disclaimer

While all advice and recommendations are made in good faith, the AWQC does not accept any liability or responsibility for the actions taken by an individual as a result of information provided.

Result Interpretation

For result interpretation, please contact the SA Health's Scientific Services on 08 8226 7100.

Further information

If you would like any further information with regards to the testing of your bore or any other testing, please contact AWQC's Customer Service unit on email customerservice@awqc.com.au or telephone 1300 653 366.

SA Health – Bore Water Testing

For further information, please refer to the SA Health website 'Bore Water Testing' or telephone 08 8226 7100;

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/public+health/water+quality/bore+water/bore+water+quality+testing>

For health and aesthetic guideline values relating to specific analysis please refer to the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011;

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/eh52> (open guidelines and go to Chapter 10, page 176 'Summary of guideline values for microbial, chemical and physical characteristics).

Application Form for Residential Bore Water Testing – Human Consumption

(Please ensure you have read all details in this information document before completing)

Date:

First Name:

Surname:

Property / Address at which bore is located:

Address where results and account are to be sent (*if different*):

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Well Permit Number:

Have you previously had testing performed by the AWQC ? YES / NO

Please circle your testing preference in the table below and highlight if you would like collection by an AWQC Field Services Officer:

	AWQC Collect	Customer Collect
Metropolitan Adelaide Includes Volatile Organic Compounds (This is only deemed necessary for bores within metropolitan Adelaide by SA Health) <i>Please see the boundary of the Green Adelaide Region for an indication of what is considered metropolitan Adelaide</i>	\$733.20 + gst	\$660.40 + gst
Non-Metropolitan Adelaide	\$457.60 + gst	\$349.70 + gst

(If an AWQC Field Services Officer is collecting, ensure the area is safe and a suitable tap is available)

The above pricing is for one sample point only, contact AWQC (customerservice@awqc.com.au) or telephone 1300 653 366) for pricing on additional samples. **Prices are valid until 30/6/22**

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