



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

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

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The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Oil Control Program (OCP) recommends that all owners of private drinking water supply wells sample their well periodically for volatile organic compounds using EPA Method 524.2 to ensure that the water meets applicable regulatory standards for potable use. If heating oil is, or has been, used at the property, the well sample should also be analyzed for total petroleum hydrocarbons – diesel range organics (TPH-DRO) by EPA Method 8015. Sampling should be performed at least once and repeated if a change in taste, odor, or appearance of well water occurs. If sampling results indicate any detections, they should be reported to the Oil Control Program.

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](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](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](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 Oil Control Program at 410-537-3442.

