

Arsenic, Lead and Radon – Most Common Well Water Contaminants in Bow

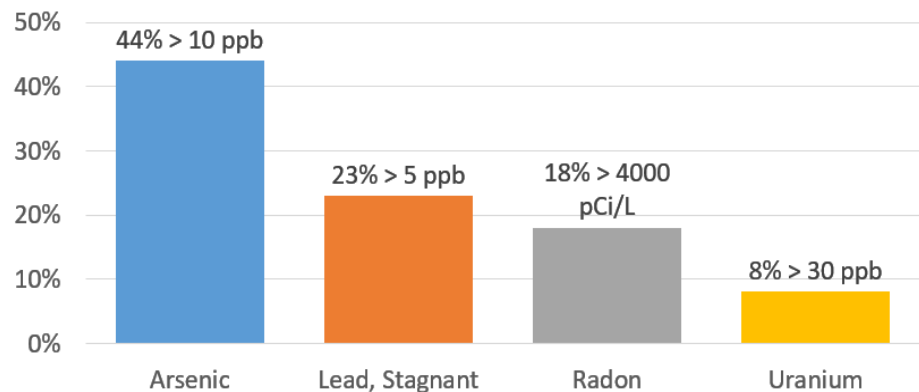
The past few years, Bow’s Drinking Water Protection Committee has facilitated annual water testing events to encourage residents to test their well water. This year’s “Test your Well” day will again be held in conjunction with the Boy Scouts Yard Sale on **Saturday, June 2, 2018**. Committee volunteers will hand out sample kits with instructions and residents can return the filled bottles at the Community Building the following day, along with a check for the analysis which costs \$85 to \$105=, depending on which panel you choose. The samples will be delivered to the State lab in Concord for processing. In 2017 the Committee collected samples from 38 residents, testing for common contaminants that included Arsenic, Lead, Radon, Uranium and Bacteria.

Did you know that close to half (44%) of historical tests from Bow residential wells have shown Arsenic above the standard of 10 parts per billion (ppb)? The second most common contaminant in our residential wells has been Lead, with about 1 in 4 or 23% showing levels above 5 ppb, the recommended maximum to protect public health, especially for young children. Other important parameters to test, and remediate if found, are Radon and Uranium (see chart and table below).

This year, after residents receive their water results, the Drinking Water Committee will hold a public information session on understanding your lab report and water treatment options. Arsenic and Uranium are best treated by a Point of Use filter at your kitchen sink, since there is no concern with contaminant absorption through the skin. On the other hand, whole house treatment is required for Radon and Water Corrosivity (for Lead). Other useful resources on treatment options and health effects from these and other well water contaminants are the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Resources “Be Well Informed” webtool, and Dartmouth’s “Arsenic and You” website. If you have questions about well water testing or treatment in Bow, please contact the Drinking Water Committee at Bowdrinkingwater@gmail.com.

Bow Private Well Testing, 2015-2018

State of New Hampshire Laboratory, March 2018



	Arsenic, ppb			Lead Stagnant, ppb			Radon, pCi/L			Uranium, ppb		
No. of Samples		201			154			108			154	
Minimum		<1			<1			<100			<1	
Maximum		176			482			85,000			59	
Median		12			2.9			6,900			11	
Average		24			14.8			12,217			11	
Samples above the standard	10	88	44%	15	13	8%	2,000	22	20%	30	12	8%
Samples above the standard	5	115	57%	5	35	23%	4,000	19	18%	15	22	14%
							10,000	11	10%			