

## **LaGrange County Water**

LaGrange County has one of the most abundant groundwater supplies in the state. We also have more wells producing 1,000 gallons per minute than any other county in Indiana. These wells are also easily contaminated.

We use groundwater for nearly every aspect of economic activity, from agriculture to manufacturing and our entire population depends on it for their drinking water.

Groundwater is an element in the water budget of virtually every lake, stream and wetland in the county which provides important recreational, scenic and environmental resources.

### ***Our Population***

From 1900 (15,000) to 1960 (17,000), the county's population increased only 14% in 60 years. From 1970 (21,000) to 2000 (35,000) the population increased 67% in 30 years. Thus the population increased 5 times in half as many years. Current projections estimate that LaGrange County will have ± 40,000 people in 2010. This growth increases demands on infrastructure, services and potable (drinking) water. At the same time, development will increase the risk of contaminating the groundwater if present practices, capable of impacting groundwater are continued.

### **MORE INFORMATION:**

Visit the LaGrange County Health Department webpage at:

[www.lagrangecountyhealth.com](http://www.lagrangecountyhealth.com)

and click the "Food" section to find more information about the drinking water-related diseases, specific water contaminants, residential water well testing, and the drinking water quality monitoring program.

### **SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE**

**1-800-426-4791**

This program is completely voluntary and the Health Department provides it as a public service for LaGrange County citizens.

### **LaGrange County Health Department**

304 N. Townline Rd. Ste 1.  
LaGrange, IN 46761-1319

**Phone: (260) 499-4182 ext 223**

[www.lagrangecountyhealth.com](http://www.lagrangecountyhealth.com)

**Q: WHY  
SHOULD I TEST  
MY WELL  
WATER?**



**A: FOR THOSE  
YOU LOVE!**

**LaGrange County  
Health Department**

*"My water tastes OK and looks OK, what could be wrong?"*

Well, the truth is that you can't really know unless you have it tested. Drinking wells in some areas are contaminated.

Most of us think of our well bringing clean, fresh water from far below. Actually, your water is probably coming from sources many miles away. Think of your well as being "tapped" into a big, underground "pipe." The problem is that we can't see the pipe so we don't know where it comes from or where it goes. We just know that our well driller found it and tapped into it so we could use it.

Some sources of your well water can be: lakes, ponds, wetlands, ditches, rivers and septic systems, just to name a few.



*Testing your water brings peace of mind.*

Every household in LaGrange County depends upon groundwater for its daily needs. Cooking, bathing, cleaning and drinking. In recent years, the discovery of contaminants in our groundwater has prompted the LCHD (LaGrange County Health Department) to offer well-water testing at a very reasonable cost. It is recommended that your water should be tested at least every year, in order to insure that your health is protected against contaminated water.

*What contaminants should you test for?*

No single test can insure that your drinking water is free of all health-related contaminants. We recommend that you start with tests for the most common contaminants like fecal coliform bacteria and nitrate. If any of these tests are over the maximum contaminant level recommended for household water well; additional tests could be done to detect possible contamination.

*What you need to do:*

1. Pick up a free sample bottle at the Health Department.
2. Take a sample of your water well following the instructions on the bottle.
3. Bring the sample to the Health Department BEFORE NOON, ONLY on Tuesday.

*What the LCHD does for you?*

The LCHD will send your water sample to a certified lab for testing.

The lab will send the results of the testing directly to you.

*And then...*

If there are any concerns with the test results, you may contact the laboratory or the Health Department for further evaluation or to arrange additional testing.