

The Benton-Franklin District Health Department's laboratory, located at 7102 W. Okanogan Place, Kennewick, is certified by the Washington State Department of Health and Department of Ecology to offer a wide variety of services in both drinking water and wastewater areas. We are proud to offer all these services to the public.

## DRINKING WATER

Safe, clean drinking water plays an important role in keeping you and your family healthy and free from disease. If you own a single family (domestic) well, the safety of your drinking water is YOUR responsibility.

In Benton and Franklin Counties, the two most common contaminants of drinking water are coliform bacteria and nitrates.

## COLIFORM BACTERIA

Coliforms are a broad class of bacteria found throughout our environment and are used to indicate the **possible** presence of disease-causing organisms in drinking water called pathogens.



**It is recommended that single family wells be tested for coliform bacteria at least once a year.**

## NITRATES

Nitrates ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) are an essential source of nitrogen for plants. When nitrogen fertilizers are used to enrich soils, nitrates may be carried by rain, irrigation and other surface waters through the soil into ground water. In Benton and Franklin Counties, agricultural practices have been linked to elevated levels of nitrates in ground water. Nitrates are a concern because elevated



levels in drinking water have been known to cause a potentially fatal blood disorder in infants under 6 months of age called methemoglobinemia, or "blue-baby syndrome." It is recommended that single family wells be tested for nitrates at least once every three years. Test more often if you live in an area with a history of nitrate contamination of ground water and/or if you have infants under 6 months of age.

## FLUORIDE



It is also recommended that you have your drinking water tested for fluoride to assist your dental care provider in assessing the need for fluoride supplements for your family. In Benton and Franklin Counties, the City of Pasco is the only community water supplier that adds fluoride to their drinking water. The other major water suppliers DO NOT add fluoride to their drinking water systems. However, there are a few areas in which the natural concentration of fluoride in ground water meets or exceeds the recommended levels. Consumption of excessively high levels of fluoride over a long period of time can cause

mottled and discolored teeth in children and may even lead to damage of bone tissue.

The following routine drinking water tests are available:

Coliform bacteria  
Nitrate  
Fluoride

Additional testing is also available for:

Total Hardness  
Heterotrophic Plate Count  
Drinking water (MPN)  
-Total Coliform  
-Fecal Coliform  
Total Dissolved Solids  
Quanti-Tray (MPN)

Collection containers for drinking water samples, along with collection instructions, are available at any Benton-Franklin District Health Department office.



## WASTEWATER

The Benton-Franklin District Health Department Laboratory also offers a number of tests for wastewater. These tests are offered as a service to ensure discharges to surface water or subsurface disposal are adequately treated. **All containers for sample submission must be supplied by the laboratory.** Please call the laboratory when you want to schedule analysis of a wastewater sample. Due to scheduling, the laboratory needs prior notice before submission of wastewater samples.

The following tests are available for wastewater:

Biological Oxygen Demand  
Carbonatious BOD  
Settleable Solids  
Total Suspended Solids  
Total Dissolved Solids  
Volatile Suspended Solids  
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen  
Fecal Coliform  
Residual Chlorine  
Dissolved Oxygen  
pH  
Ammonia  
Chloride  
Nitrate  
Total Coliform  
Total Solids

For current prices on any of the above mentioned drinking water or wastewater tests, call the Benton-Franklin District Health Laboratory.

If you have additional needs beyond the parameters listed, or need additional information, contact:

Benton-Franklin Health District  
**Laboratory**  
7102 W. Okanogan Place  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
509.460.4206

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Benton Franklin Health District office locations:

Kennewick and Richland  
7102 W. Okanogan Place  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
509-460-4206

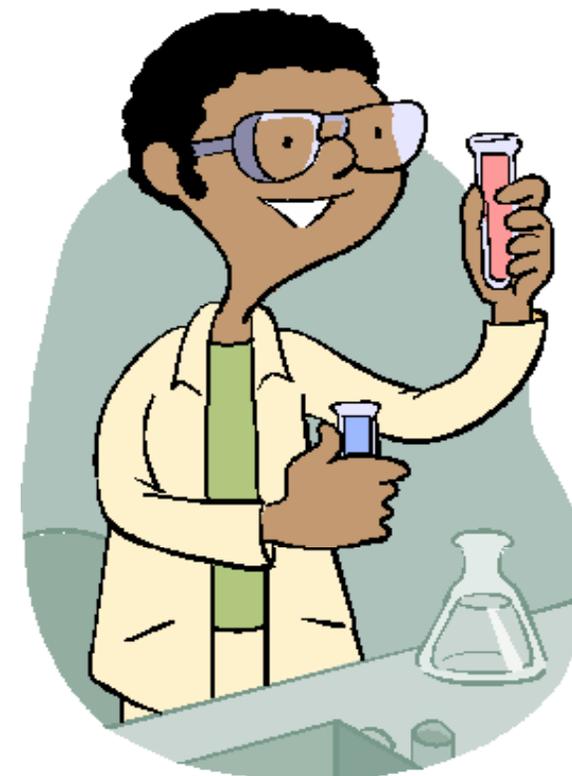
Pasco  
412 W. Clark  
Pasco, WA 99301  
509-547-9737

Prosser  
310 7th Ave.  
Prosser, WA 99350  
509.460-4582

The following brochures are available at our office and our website, <http://www.bfhd.wa.gov>  
Nitrates  
Coliforms  
Fluoride  
Water Quality  
Advice for Prospective Water Well Owners  
Well Protection

# Laboratory Services

**The Single Family Well**



[www.bfhd.wa.gov](http://www.bfhd.wa.gov)

